

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

9:00 am Fitness Center

DMR Landings and Licensing Staff Available for Assistance

DMR Landings Staff will be available all weekend to assist harvesters one on one with electronic reporting options. This includes demonstrating our VESL app and Maine LEEDS system. We will help create logins and answer reporting questions. Licensing staff will be on hand as well to answer licensing questions, or assist with creating a login through the Department's online system, LEEDS. We can also issue and print licenses for fishermen that have a credit card or check. The laminator will be back to laminate licenses for harvesters.

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

8:30 AM Camden Room

Shellfish Focus Day

8:30 Welcome and Introduction (Patrick Keliher, Department of Marine Resources, Jessica Joyce & Lewis Pinkham, DMR Shellfish Advisory Council)

8:45 Real-time Forecasts for Shellfish Toxicity and Other Aquaculture Needs

Maine DMR and Bigelow Laboratory have collaborated with shellfish growers to develop a weekly forecast for PSP and associated closures available across sites sampled by DMR. The forecast has been running for two years with positive feedback from the industry. The session has three objectives: 1) Provide updates on the forecasting system, including increasing awareness of the forecast. This includes presentations from panelists. 2) Solicit feedback on the forecasting system to look for ways to improve it or flag potential concerns. 3) Open discussion on other ways a system like this can serve the industry.

Moderator: Kohl Kantit, DMR Bureau of Public Health

Panel: Nicholas Record, PhD, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Science

9:15 Growing Clams for Mudflat Restoration: What Gouldsboro has Learned in Two Years

Gouldsboro has used seed clams to restore its many clam flats to productivity over the past six years. The town recognized that the cost of one-year-old clams, which are large enough for seeding, was high enough to make it difficult to do as much clam flat restoration as the town wanted. So, the town decided to try growing 1-year-old clams, starting with newly hatched clams from the Downeast Institute. With support from the Maine Shellfish Restoration and Resilience Fund, Gouldsboro initiated a project to learn whether growing seed clams at a small, local scale was possible and cost-effective. The presentation will report on what Gouldsboro has learned over the past two years. We will describe the outcomes of our different approaches to growing clams and what we have learned about the design of facilities and processes. There will be an opportunity for audience Q & A following the presentation.

Host: Dianne Tilton, Downeast Institute

Moderator: Kohl Kantit, DMR Bureau of Public Health

Panel: Mike Pinkham, Town of Gouldsboro
Bill Zoellick, Town of Gouldsboro

9:45 Understanding Injuries, Pain and Substance Use among Shellfish Harvesters in Downeast Maine

In response to requests from fishing industry partners, a group of researchers with the Downeast Health Research Collaborative recently completed a pilot study to better understand how injury, chronic pain and substance use affect lobster and shellfish harvesters in Downeast Maine. The study aimed to get a more complete picture of the risks and challenges faced by harvesters and to identify workable solutions. We conducted surveys and interviews with harvesters, healthcare providers and fisheries advocates. They gave detailed information about the kinds of injuries harvesters experience, how they manage injuries and pain, and how, for some harvesters, injuries lead to drug-related problems. Participants also explained how regulations and culture play a role in injury risk and health, and they provided innovative ideas to improve health outcomes. In this session, we will report on the study's findings related specifically to the shellfish industry and ask for feedback and input about further action on these issues.

Host: Dianne Tilton, Downeast Institute

Moderator: Kohl Kanwit, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Panel: Tora Johnson PhD, Downeast Health Research Collaborative, UMaine Machias
Gray Jones, University of Maine
Joseph Spiller, University of Southern Maine

10:30 Creating New Conversations around Coastal Access: Learning from Community-Based Stories to Protect and Preserve Access in Wild Intertidal Shellfish Fisheries

This panel will focus on sharing diverse, community-based stories about access in wild intertidal shellfish fisheries in Maine and Wabanaki homelands. This panel is collaboratively sponsored by the Maine

Shellfish Learning Network, the Maine Shellfish Co-Management Initiative, partner organizations and panelists and seeks to uplift stories that highlight unique approaches to preserving and protecting access to the coast and within the fisheries. As such, our panelists, who represent communities across the coast, will speak to how their communities have lost or are losing access and the unique initiatives they are employing to address these losses.

To begin, we will provide a brief overview of access issues in wild intertidal shellfish fisheries. While access to the coast is an issue facing many other fisheries in Maine, access in wild intertidal shellfish fisheries poses a set of unique challenges. We will outline the physical, structural, and social pressures that are shaping access to the coast and to these fisheries. Panelists will describe the initiatives or projects that protect and preserve access in their communities and the processes they are leading to formulate plans and turn those plans into action. Panelists will share stories of successes they have celebrated and challenges they have navigated.

Lastly, we will engage the audience through a question-and-answer session with the panelists as well as opening up a space for attendees to share their own stories about access. Through this open dialogue with panelists and the audience, we hope that attendees will learn from each other's efforts and make meaningful connections that can support broader, more coordinated efforts to address access. Through sharing diverse stories and creating opportunity for dialogue about access in wild intertidal shellfish fisheries, we hope that attendees and panelists will come away with new questions, ideas, and connections that can aid their own communities in maintaining and expanding access in the future.

Host: Dianne Tilton, Downeast Institute
Moderator: B Lauer, Maine Shellfish Learning Network
Panel: Amanda Lyons, Lubec Shellfish Committee
David Wilson, Harpswell Marine Resource Committee
Pauline Angione, Gouldsboro Shore Project

12:45 Shellfish and Intertidal Ecosystem Research and Monitoring

This panel consists of three presentations and discussion on the following topics:

1) 2020-2022 Maine Clam Recruitment Monitoring Network

Data on how many soft-shell clams have been recruiting to Maine's mudflats over the last three years will be presented. Data from 25 intertidal locations across the coast of Maine, from Wells to Sipayik shows not only how many clams are recruiting, but also temperatures, and the sizes of clams are able to grow when predators are excluded. We will also discuss the results of surveys that show us how many recruits are able to survive their first year of life without being protected from predators and become the basis of subsequent years harvest. Recruitment is a critical stage in the early life-history of the clam. Robust commercial harvests rely on strong recruitment followed by relatively high survival. This seminar is of interest as it provides the most comprehensive data available on recruitment levels for the state's second largest fishery. This information can be useful in anticipating upcoming year's harvests.

2) Three years of Green Crab Population Demographics Across the Coast of Maine

Invasive green crab, *Carcinus maenas*, demographic data from 25 monitoring stations across the coast of Maine for the past three years (2020-2022) will be presented. Repeated field research over the last ten years has found that predation is the most important factor causing soft-shell clam mortality on flats along coast of Maine, especially on clams in their first year of life. Green crabs are the major predator of clams in Maine, their populations thriving in our warming seawaters. Downeast Institute's Clam Recruitment Monitoring Network provides crucial information on the green crabs responsible for the bulk of Maine's clam mortality- crabs that are originally 2mm in carapace width or smaller. Understanding the numbers of these crabs, along with how fast they grow and associated mudflat temperatures are a big part of understanding and predicting future clam and other commercially important shellfish harvests. The presentation will engage the audience with comprehensive coastwide, presented in a way data that identifies patterns and regional trends over a three year time period, of vital importance to the fishing industry.

3) 2022 Update: Long-Term Clam Flat Acidity Monitoring in Beals, Maine

- The productivity of Maine clam flats is under pressure from invasive green crab predation, which is increasing due to ocean warming, as well as the deleterious effects of ocean acidification (OA) on shellfish survival and growth. While free-swimming, planktonic clam larvae are vulnerable to acidification of the water column, settled clams are susceptible to conditions in the mud, and early post-settlement bivalves that burrow into these corrosive sediments are most vulnerable to dissolution pressure and resulting mortality agents. And while porewater – the seawater between particles of sediment – is naturally acidic relative to the overlying seawater, OA is expected to push it below its natural minima. Previously, there was no long-term (i.e., months-long) dataset on the carbonate chemistry system in mudflat porewater, which limited our ability to disentangle short-term, natural variation from long-term environmental change. In 2021, we initiated the first long-term project to monitor mudflat carbonate chemistry across the entire clam growing season, measuring porewater pH and total alkalinity at two sites in collaboration with the Shellfish Warden for the town of Beals. We recently completed a second year of monitoring, producing the most comprehensive dataset ever compiled on the subject. Our results reveal a highly acidified and undersaturated

environment, which may be hostile to developing clams. Supplemented with data from DEI's Clam Recruitment Monitoring Network, the dataset provides valuable insights into mudflat chemical dynamics and their relevance to clam abundance and growth, which will aid coastal resources managers in anticipating the impacts of climate change on clam harvests.

Host: Dianne Tilton, Downeast Institute

Moderator: Dianne Tilton, Downeast Institute

Panel: Dr. Brian Beal University of Maine at Machias and Downeast Institute
Sara Randall, Downeast Institute
Dr. Robert Holmberg, Downeast Institute

2:00 pm How Towns can Protect their Marine Economy through Preserving Working Waterfront and Intertidal Marine Resources with Local Data, Planning, and Mapping

This panel presentations and panel discussion addresses three pertinent topics to municipal planning - the marine economy, climate change adaptation in the intertidal, and preserving working waterfront, including:

1) Working Waterfront Inventory Template: One of the first steps to preserving working waterfront infrastructure and the businesses and culture it supports is to collect baseline information. To support towns in this data collection, Maine Coast Fishermen's Association and Tidal Bay Consulting developed a template for a municipal working waterfront inventory that can be used in comprehensive plans, harbor management plans or as a stand-alone document. Through creating an inventory and monitoring change over time, towns can better plan and prioritize resources for a resilient working waterfront and home base for the marine economy.

2) Community Intertidal Data Portal: The Data Portal is a GIS Hub site that was created collaboratively to make intertidal data and information more accessible, foster connections between communities with an interest in intertidal marine resources, and promote a more nuanced understanding of issues within the nearshore environment of Casco Bay. There are multiple data products, including story maps for the working waterfront and sea level rise, as well as a water quality data dashboard and shellfish conservation map viewer.

3) Jonesport and Beals local economy project: The Downeast working waterfront communities of Jonesport and Beals are working with regional partners in order to increase the communities' access to local level data and information to help guide local decision-making. The project is founded on community conversations to identify what community members want to learn about and care about in relation to the local economy. The project partners use an economic estimation method developed in collaboration with Maine partners, then overlays new, timely data and local knowledge to generate a more accurate picture of the communities' economies.

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Dianne Tilton, Downeast Institute

Moderator: Monique Coombs, Maine Coast Fishermen's Assn.

Panel: Kristen Grant, Maine Sea Grant and University of Maine Cooperative Extension
Megan Bailey, UofM Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center
Madeline Tripp, Viewshed
Monique Coombs, Maine Coast Fishermen's Assn.
Jessica Joyce, Tidal Bay Consulting

3:00 Shellfish Focus Day Networking Session

During this networking session, there will be an array of poster presentations, hands-on demonstrations, as well as the opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues. Refreshments will be available.

Host: Dianne Tilton, Downeast Institute

Sponsors: Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, Manomet, and Tidal Bay Consulting

Moderator: Mike Thalhauser, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
Marissa McMahan, Manomet

4:00 Adjourn

OFFSHORE WIND SEMINAR

9:00 am Camden Room

Fisheries and Offshore Wind Energy Interactions: Synthesis of Science

NOAA Fisheries and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) partnered with the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) to develop the Synthesis of the Science: Fisheries and Offshore Wind Energy, bringing together the agencies, states, fisheries representatives, and offshore wind developers to synthesize existing knowledge and outline the path forward for scientific research. This synthesis addressed the need to synthesize current and past scientific research that has examined the interactions between offshore wind development (OSW), fisheries and the marine ecosystems, given the forecasted rapid pace of OSW in the Gulf of Maine and U.S. more broadly. The Synthesis of the Science

(SoS) focused on five topics that were collectively identified, by the project partners, as critical for consideration in relation to OSW: ecosystem effects, fisheries human dimensions, fisheries management and data collection, methods and approaches, and regional science planning. This session will open with a presentation outlining the SoS purpose, process, and a summary of findings, gaps, and research recommendations for each of the topic areas. Following the presentation there will be an open discussion between a panel of subject matter experts, composed of fishing industry members and scientists. The panel discussion will include the topics covered in the SOS and any additional recommendations that arise from discussion. Audience members will be encouraged to provide their recommendations, perspectives and/or concerns on each of the topics covered.

Hosts: Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation

Moderator: Fiona Hogan, RODA

Panelists: Andrew Lipsky, New England Fisheries Science Center
Beth Casoni, Mass. Lobstermen's Assn.
Jackie Odell, Northeast Seafood Coalition

10:00 am Camden Room

Integrated Ecosystem Assessment: Fisheries and Offshore Wind Development

The recent plans for rapid development of offshore wind energy in the Gulf of Maine have caused concern among many stakeholders in the fishing industry. Among the many comments voiced thus far, there has been near-universal agreement that fishing industry data must be adequately considered when the Bureau of Offshore Energy Management (BOEM) designates wind energy areas. In order to ensure that the fishing industry has the opportunity to propose and contribute data during the offshore wind planning process, RODA has partnered with the NOAA Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Program to conduct an IEA on interactions between fisheries and offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine. IEAs are an approach to ecosystem-based management (EBM) that seeks to integrate all components of an ecosystem, including humans, to help inform the decision-making process so that managers can balance trade-offs and determine what strategies are most likely to achieve environmental and economic goals.

There are several steps in the IEA process, all of which can help inform management at some level. They include defining the EBM goals and targets, developing indicators, assessing the ecosystem, analyzing uncertainty and risk, and finally evaluating strategies. The project will produce several products including a conceptual model that will help facilitate discussion and identify key data gaps, an ecosystem status report to inform any environmental impact statements; and ultimately a structured decision-making tool (i.e. management strategy evaluation or scenario planning) to assist offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine.

This session will open with a presentation outlining the IEA process, including an initial conceptual model of fisheries and ecological interactions with offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine. This base conceptual model will be built from recent public comments submitted to BOEM related to the Gulf of Maine offshore wind planning areas and will be used as a starting point for discussion of the larger IEA process. While the session is primarily aimed at the fishing industry to understand the IEA process and begin fleshing out the conceptual model based on direct input from industry, participation of state and federal agency staff, researchers, and other ocean users is encouraged. Identification of potential fisheries and ecological data sources is an essential component of the IEA and will be included in the discussion. Panelists and audience members are welcome to provide input to the IEA team during the seminar discussion or at the RODA booth located in the trade show.

Host: Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation

Moderator: Fiona Hogan, RODA

Panel: Sean Lucey, New England Fisheries Science Center
Abigail Tyrell, Ocean Associates
Casey Yanos, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Patrice McCarron, Maine Lobstermen's Assn.
Terry Alexander, Fisherman
OSW Developer Representative, TBD

11:15 am Camden Room

Ways to Influence and Participate in Offshore Wind Research and Monitoring

Throughout the Gulf of Maine and beyond, fishermen have a longstanding legacy of collaborating with scientists to develop and successfully execute research and monitoring projects. Their participation and input is invaluable as fishermen's knowledge of the ecology and expertise as mariners bring unique insight to shape the work. As the offshore wind industry pursues deployment of floating turbines in the Gulf of Maine, there are many questions about the effects this will have on the fish, fisheries and fishing communities, as well as the ecosystem as a whole. In Maine, the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium, established by the Legislature, will develop a research strategy to better understand the local and regional impacts of floating offshore wind power projects in the Gulf of Maine. Fishermen have an

opportunity now to help shape the research agenda and participate in future research and monitoring projects as collaborators.

This session will focus on examples of how the fishing industry, along with other stakeholders, is working to define and prioritize the critical questions about offshore wind and how collaborative research alongside this emerging industry is taking shape. We will hear from organizations who have worked directly with the offshore wind industry to develop and execute research projects to monitor for impacts and learn about regional and Maine-based efforts to ensure that research is conducted in an open, transparent, and inclusive manner and that data can be easily accessed.

Hosts: Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation
Moderator: Laura Taylor Singer, SAMBAS Consulting
Panelists: Mike Pol, Responsible Offshore Science Alliance
David Bethoney, Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation
Carl Wilson, Director, Bureau of Marine Science, Dept. of Marine Resources
Stephanie Watson, Maine Offshore Wind Program Manager

1:30 pm Camden Room

The Importance of Fishery Engagement in Informing Offshore Wind Development

Fishing businesses, fishery management organizations, and fisheries science and research organizations will be affected by and are engaged in the development of multiple offshore wind projects. Many ocean users, including fisheries participants, are struggling to find sufficient resources to provide meaningful input within allocated timelines of the wind development process. An informational workshop on how to effectively and efficiently engage in this process is needed.

This session is aimed at fishermen and other ocean users. Presenters will walk through BOEM's leasing process and explain how public participation in this process differs from NEFMC/NOAA's fishery management process and Maine's offshore wind planning efforts. The first part of the session will include presentations made by BOEM, NEFMC/NOAA, and the state of Maine, with a focus on current leasing activities in the Gulf of Maine and informed by what we have learned in other regions.

These presentations will be followed by a panel discussion and Q&A session. Panelists will expand on topics raised during the presentations and can address questions on other related issues. Panelists have expertise in commercial fishing in the Gulf of Maine, community outreach, fisheries science and management, and other areas. The panel discussion will focus on:

- Sharing insights on how different stakeholders engage and influence offshore development and
- The role of public comment.

Audience questions and comments will guide the panel discussion. We anticipate that the panel discussion will include and generate suggestions or avenues to engage more effectively, including the type and timing of participation in wind development processes.

Hosts: Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation
Moderator: Jennifer Couture, New England Fishery Management Council
Panelists: Michelle Bachman, New England Fishery Management Council
Douglas Christel, National Marine Fisheries Service, GARFO
Alison Bates, NOAA Colby College Waterville
Terry Alexander, Fisherman
Zachary Jylkka, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Lane Johnston, Responsible Offshore Development Alliance
Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Stephanie Watson, Maine Governor's Energy Office

1:00 pm Fitness Center

Coast Guard Approved ASHI 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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2023

8:00 am Samoset Pool

Water Survival Training: Water Safety and Emergency 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: Brian Smith, USCG SNNE

Panel: Paul Bassick, Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety

9:00 am Fitness Center

DMR Landings and Licensing Staff Available for Assistance

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Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

9:00 am Rockland Room

Update on Management Actions Affecting Gillnet Fisheries Interactions with Protected Species

This session will provide an update on recent fishery management actions affecting gillnet fisheries managed under the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC). These actions address a need to reduce interactions between gillnet fisheries and protected species, specifically North Atlantic right whales and Atlantic sturgeon.

This session will provide a summary of the gillnet measures being considered as part of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan to address the risk of fishing gear entanglements with North Atlantic right whales. Note that these measures are a component of a larger effort by the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team to reduce the risk from all East Coast fixed gear fisheries, and this session will focus on the gillnet measures only.

Additionally, this session will provide a summary of an upcoming action the NEFMC will undertake to address recommendations in NOAA's Action Plan to Reduce Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch in Federal Large Mesh Gillnet Fisheries.

Presentations will be followed by open discussion with the audience.

Host: Maggie Raymond, Maine Fishermen's Forum

Moderator: Maggie Raymond, Maine Fishermen's Forum

Speakers: Robin Frede, New England Fishery Management Council
Terry Alexander, Commercial Fisherman
Ben Martens, Maine Coast Fishermen's Assn.
Spencer Talmage, NOAA Fisheries

9:00 am Rockport Room

Maine Lobstermen's Association 69th Annual Meeting

The Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) is excited to be back at the Forum for our 69th Annual Meeting! MLA's 2023 Annual Meeting will be dedicated to updating the fishing industry on the progress of MLA's Save Maine Lobstermen campaign dedicated to preserving Maine's lobstering heritage and endangered whales. MLA is aggressively pursuing a four-pronged strategy which includes 1) legal and policy solutions, 2) ensuring that the best available science is used in decision-making, 3) innovating effective conservation strategies that work for fishermen and whales, and 4) educating the public about the industry's long-term commitment to right whale conservation.

Join the MLA in welcoming members of our talented Legal Team who will update attendees on the status of MLA's lawsuit and Appeal. MLA's lawsuit seeks to end government over-reach and hold NMFS accountable to follow the law as Congress intended. MLA's legal team will also provide updates on other court cases that threaten the future of Maine's lobster industry. There will be plenty of time to for discussion and for Q&A.

As always, the MLA membership will conduct its annual election. MLA members, family and the public are encouraged to attend to and share their questions and ideas.

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: Ryan Steen, Stoel Rives LLP
Mary Anne Mason, MLA Legal Counsel
Paul Clement, Clement & Murphy PLLC

10:30 am Rockland Room

Training the Next Generation of Fishermen

This session will highlight training opportunities for fishermen to learn or improve fishing and fishing related skills, as well as to improve understanding of fishery management processes.

NOAA's Federal Program Officer will share information on the Young Fishermen's Development Act (YFDA), meant to help preserve the U.S. fishing heritage through a national program to train the next generation of fishermen.

Maine Sea Grant will describe Maine's YFDA 2022 planning project that helped inform the federal funding priorities including recommendations for training Maine's fishermen.

The New England Young Fishermen's Alliance will discuss their Deckhand to Captain training program and their future plans for a resource and networking center to support young fishing families and the next generation of owner-operators in the fishing industry.

The Eastern Maine Skipper's Program will describe how they provide students with the core knowledge and skills needed to participate in coastal fisheries.

The Gulf of Maine Research Institute will describe the Marine Resource Education Program - a program designed and led by fishermen, that provides participants with tools, skills and knowledge to engage effectively in the complex federal fishery science and management processes.

The panel presentations will be followed by an open discussion.

Host: Maggie Raymond, Maine Fishermen's Forum
Moderator: Natalie Springuel, Maine Sea Grant
Panel: Joshua Brown, NOAA Sea Grant
Keri Kaczor, Maine Sea Grant
Andrea Tomlinson, New England Young Fishermen's Alliance
Tom Duym, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
Lauren O'Brien, Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Lucas Raymond, Commercial Fisherman
Andy Koncheck, Commercial Fisherman

10:30 am Rockport Room

Maine Lobster Marketing Annual Report

Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative will review the marketing plan for 2023, including tactics to protect the brand reputation of Maine Lobster, promote the product to increase demand, and partner with other organizations to amplify key messages. The programming has a lot of flexibility built in so that the MLMC can remain nimble and adjust based on market conditions. The panelists will review the results of the 2022 program, including the extensive public relations work done around the reputational challenges in the face of the North Atlantic right whale narrative.

Host: Steve Train, *F/V Hattie Rose*
Moderator: Marianne LaCroix, Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative
Panel: Brian Langley, Union River Lobster Pot
John Files, Weber Shandwick
Josh Seifert, Weber Shandwick

1:00 pm Rockland Room

2023 Northern Gulf of Maine Federal Scallop Fishery: Management and Research Updates

Join staff from the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) and National Marine Fisheries Service to learn about the growing federal scallop fishery in the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM). This seminar will provide participants information about recent management actions, resources within the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and an opportunity to learn more about monitoring and enforcement in the NGOM management unit.

NEFMC staff will provide an outlook for the upcoming 2023 NGOM federal scallop fishery, and recap recent Council action on a control date that could be used to limit future participation in the federal NGOM fishery.

Staff from National Marine Fisheries Service will discuss how the fishery is monitored, including observer requirements for all limited access general category vessels participating in the NGOM fishery.

Researchers from the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary will describe valuable resources and how the scallop fishery could mitigate some unintended impacts on the sand lance and shipwreck resources.

NOAA office of Law Enforcement will be available to answer questions about the rules and regulations for the upcoming season.

Host: Maggie Raymond, Maine Fishermen's Forum
Moderator: Maggie Raymond, Maine Fishermen's Forum
Panel: Jonathon Peros, New England Fishery Management Council
Sam Asci, New England Fishery Management Council
Travis Ford, National Marine Fisheries Service
Jessica Blaylock, National Marine Fisheries Service
Jason Berthiaume, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
Ben Haskell, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Dave Wiley, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

1:00 pm Rockport Room

Eastern Maine Skippers Program – Looking into Whelks, Shrimp and Scallop Spat

This seminar will highlight projects and programs undertaken in 2022-23 by the Eastern Maine Skippers Program and the participating eastern Maine Schools and communities. This year's seminar will feature poster sessions of what specific learning students are involved in relative to the EMSP projects focused on Northern Shrimp, Scallop spat distribution and the potential of Whelks. Some schools have additional Marine projects. We will also have Safety materials and videos available for viewing, as well as new offerings from EMSP for capture and culture fishery deckhands.

Host: Jenni Steele, Island Fishermen's Wives Assn.
Moderator: Tom Duym, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
Panel: Students and Teachers from Participating Schools

2:45 pm Rockland Room

Open Forum with Federal Fisheries Leadership

Please join us for the opportunity to meet and converse with the leadership of federal fisheries management.

Host: Maggie Raymond, Maine Fishermen's Forum
Moderator: Maggie Raymond, Associated Fisheries of Maine
Panel: Michael Pentony, Greater Atlantic Fisheries Office
Dr. Jon Hare, Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Eric Reid, New England Fishery Management Council

2:45 pm Rockport Room

Innovation and Resilience in Maine's Seafood Community

The Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy is a network of public and private partners dedicated to a vibrant marine economy. With an eye towards the future, we foster innovation and entrepreneurship by sharing our knowledge and lessons learned. Hear what businesses from across Maine's seafood economy are doing to navigate "shocks" like the COVID-19 Pandemic and other major disruptions. The panel will share what innovative strategies they are using to adapt to change, followed by an open discussion with the audience.

Host: Hugh Cowperthwaite, Coastal Enterprises Inc.
Moderator: Keri Kaczor, Maine Sea Grant
Panel: Brianna Warner, Atlantic Sea Farms
Boe Marsh, Community Shellfish
Brian Langley, Union River Lobster Pot
Curt Brown, Ready Seafood

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020

8:00 am Samoset Pool

Water Survival Training: Water Safety and Emergency 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: Brian Smith, USCG SNNE

Panel: Paul Bassick, Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety

9:00 am Golf Club

Maine Lobster Boat Racing Association (MLBRA) 2023 Pre-Season Meeting

The Maine Lobster Boat Racing Association (MLBRA) will hold its annual meeting at the Forum with MLBRA president Jon Johansen leading the discussion. No rule changes have been proposed for 2023 with 11 stops planned on the summer race circuit. The regular meeting will be followed by a look back at lobster boat racing in the past.

All are invited to this meeting; non-MLBRA members are encouraged to join.

Host: Brian Robbins, Commercial Fisheries News

Moderator: Jon Johansen, MLBRA President

9:00 am Fitness Center

DMR Landings and Licensing Staff Available for Assistance

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Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

9:00 am Rockland Room

Looking Back and Planning Ahead for Maine Scallop Industries

The Atlantic sea scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*) fishery is the largest and most valuable wild scallop fishery in the world. In Maine, the sea scallop fishery has long been a source of income for Maine's fishing communities, second in value only to the state's lobster fishery. Meanwhile, the adoption of scallop aquaculture is increasing along the coast of Maine. There are currently 36 experimental, standard or limited purpose leases with scallops identified as the primary species for aquaculture. It is projected that scallop aquaculture in Maine has the potential to double the volume and total value of Maine scallops by 2030, while maintaining a price premium and extending the availability of consumable product to year-round. However, this projection will only be met by addressing bottlenecks that affect both sectors. For example, currently, both the wild and aquaculture scallop industries rely on the capture of wild spat to support harvesting efforts and hatchery production of scallop seed remains unsuccessful. Furthermore, spat collection varies from year to year. As successful scallop culture consists of seed procurement, grow-out, and harvest, reliance on a variable wild set is a potential bottleneck for consistent culture production and presents a possible conflict with the wild fishery.

The session will focus on convening people in the scallop sector to 1.) review the history of scallop needs assessment and other recent milestones in Maine, 2.) Present research that is currently underway to address some of these needs, and 3.) Conduct a facilitated discussion that aims to understand the current scallop resource, fishery, and industry in the changing ecosystem of the Gulf of Maine by producing ideas for integrated research and providing direction for future collaborations and policies for co-existence. The discussion will help establish a framework to develop research priorities and initiate collaborative projects focusing on the Gulf of Maine scallop resource. Speakers and facilitators will lead a facilitated dialogue with invited scallop draggers, divers and aquaculturists.

Host: Hugh Cowperthwaite, Coastal Enterprises, Inc.

Moderator: Togue Brawn, Downeast Dayboat

Panel: Dana Morse, Maine Sea Grant

Phoebe Jekielek, Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership

Kelsey Ward, University of Maine

Melissa Smith, Maine Department of Marine Resources

Carla Guenther, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries

9:00 am Rockport Room

Working with Fishermen to Remove Lost and Abandoned Fishing Gear from the Gulf of Maine

The Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) and Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation (GOMLF) are working with fishermen, divers, and scientists to remove derelict fishing gear and large debris from identified hotspots in Maine state waters.

Surveys suggest that derelict fishing gear comprise up to 70% of floating macro-plastics in the ocean by weight. Lost or discarded gear creates navigational hazards and makes coastal areas unfishable, economically impacting fisheries and coastal economies due to lost fishing time and reduced yield to market. In addition, "ghost fishing" kills up to one-third of harvestable stocks in some fisheries every year, posing a serious threat to food security and livelihoods.

In New England, fishing gear is vulnerable to loss due to heavy storms, ship strikes, fixed and mobile gear interactions and accidental cuttings. Fishers in the region report losing 10-30% of their lobster traps and associated gear annually, which become part of the growing accumulation of marine debris on the ocean floor if not retrieved.

This session is dedicated to showcasing the ongoing efforts of the GGGI and GOMLF, hearing directly from lobstermen about community needs related to lost and abandoned fishing gear, and showcasing future efforts to get involved.

During this session we will introduce best practices for reducing the risk of gear loss and highlight local case studies for derelict gear removal through a panel of lobstermen and local experts.

Host: Steve Train, *F/V Hattie Rose*
Moderator: Joel Baziuk, Ocean Conservancy
Panel: Jim Buxton, Fisherman
Erin Pelletier, Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation
Jim Barclay, Fisherman
Josh Miller, Fisherman

9:00 am Camden Room

Economics of the Lobster Fleet in Changing Times

The American lobster fishery is the State's largest and most valuable fishery but changes are ahead and it's critical that we understand how that may unfold and impact our coastal communities in Maine. Changes such as warming waters and changing ocean conditions, higher costs of operations, new costly regulations and decreased fishing areas and seasons, combined with consumer market impacts - are all adding up to have an impact on the profitability of the fishery and the fleet. In this seminar we will examine how these changes manifest at the operator level, and discuss the potentially uneven economic impacts of these changes across the fleet and different zones across Maine. Prior increased investment for some portions of Maine's lobster fleet in vessels, new engines, and gear technologies seem to have improved the efficiency in some portions of the fleet. But the observable physical attributes of the vessels in the fleet are also only one of the dimensions of the performance of a fishing operation and may not account for all of the variations in profit efficiency. Recent landings reports and recent studies also indicate spatial and temporal changes in the availability of lobsters by zone, and landings of the resource over time have shifted, with predictable and unpredictable effects and impacting economic return of the working communities that depend on the fishery.

We propose a session that focuses on convening people in the lobster fleet to 1.) briefly review the fleet composition and history of lobster landings in Maine in a pre-warming benchmark period 2010 2.) Present research that characterizes five different business models in the fleet and profit efficiencies; reflect on most recent changes in resource landings patterns in Maine; and present findings from adaptations the Southern new England lobster fleet made as a result of resource declines and 3.) Conduct a facilitated discussion that aims to capture fleet level changes in Maine, and local ecological knowledge within the changing ecosystem of the Gulf of Maine. The discussion will help establish a series of scenarios to explore and develop research and policy priorities focusing on the Gulf of Maine lobster fleet economic viability under changing conditions.

Host: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Assn.
Moderator: Alexa Dayton, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
Panel: Kanae Tokunaga, Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Kat Maltby, Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Jaeheon Kim, University of Maine
Carla Guenther, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
Steve Train, Fisherman
Kristan Porter, Fisherman

10:30 am Golf Club

Alewife Harvesters of Maine Annual Meeting

Business Meeting:

- Treasurer's Report and Board Member Introductions
- Moment of silence for Ed Courtenay
- Management updates & status of the stocks & upcoming DMR work plans,
- Updates on habitat restoration projects & dam removal projects now and ongoing
- The Impact of Federal funding for stream upgrade with Atlantic salmon present. And how that may affect harvesting in those systems.
- Open Q&A for the panel.

Host: Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation

Moderator: Jeffrey Pierce, Alewife Harvesters of Maine

Panel: Mike Brown, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Landis Hudson, Maine Rivers
Dwayne Shaw, Downeast Salmon Federation
Mike Thalhauser, Alewife Harvesters of Maine

10:30 am Rockland Room

Seafood Cooking Demonstration: Amp Up Your Seafood Dishes

Of course we all know Maine fishermen and sea farmers harvest the world's best-tasting seafood. As members of the fishing industry, we're privileged to have plenty of it at our fingertips. Sometimes having easy access to something can make you take it for granted, relying on the same old recipes year after year. Well, let us help you expand your repertoire! This session will help you amp up your seafood game with simple yet innovative recipes for both traditional and trendy seafood items. And if you're lucky, you'll get free samples!

Host: Togue Brawn, Downeast Dayboat

Panel: Rob Dumas, University of Maine
Keri Kaczor, Maine Sea Grant

10:30 am Rockport Room

Maine DMR Lobster Science Update

Over 80% of American lobster landings in the US come from Maine lobster boats fishing across the coast. The Maine DMR Lobster Monitoring and Research Program collects demographic data on the Gulf of Maine lobster population at different life stages through multiple long-term monitoring surveys including the Landings Program, Settlement Survey, Inshore Trawl Survey, Commercial At-Sea Sampling, Ventless Trap Survey, and Larval Survey. These data are used in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission American Lobster Stock Assessment to inform the management of this valuable fishery. Maine DMR staff will provide the annual update of all monitoring programs, new research, and discuss trends over time.

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Moderator: Kathleen Reardon, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Panel: Jessica Waller, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Rebecca Peters, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Robert Russell, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Heather Glon, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Amelia Harrington, Maine Sea Grant

10:30 am Camden Room

Lessons Learned from the 2023 Northeast Cooperative Research Summit

The Northeast Cooperative Research Summits, held in Newport News, VA on January 21, 2023, and in Providence, RI on February 15, 2023, focused on sharing the approaches and results of ongoing cooperative research projects, discussing opportunities for enhanced industry participation, facilitating regional coordination of cooperative research, developing new partnerships, and identifying priorities for near-term science and management challenges that can be addressed by cooperative research. This seminar will highlight the key take aways from the Northeast Cooperative Research Summits and will solicit additional input on the priorities and path forward for cooperative research in the northeast region. The seminar will open with a short summary of the summit proceedings, followed by summit highlights shared by a panel of industry members and scientists who participated in the summits. Finally, seminar attendees will be asked to provide their perspectives on how to prioritize and enhance cooperative research efforts going forward. The discussions that occur during this seminar will be integrated into the Northeast Cooperative Research Summit report, as new insights and recommendations are expected to be highlighted by northern New England participants.

Host: Gayle Zydlewski, Maine Sea Grant College Program

Moderator: Anna Mercer, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Panelists: Carla Guenther, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
Dave Bethoney, Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation

Giovanni Gianesin, Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Industry Member (TDB - Dependent on Summit participation)

1:00 pm Golf Club

Maine Elver Fishermen's Association Annual Meeting

MEFA Annual Business Meeting, Maine life cycle study presented by Jason Bartlett DRM staff, Maine Aquaculture update By Sara Radamaker from American Unagi, Restoring Habitat by Mike Thalhauser from the Center for Coastal fisheries, Landing report By DMR staff TBD

Host: Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation

Moderator: Jeffrey Pierce, Elver Assn.

Panel: Darrell Young, Maine Elver Fishermen's Assn.
Travis Atwood, Maine Elver Fishermen's Assn.
Sara Radamaker, American Unagi
Jason Bartlett, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Mike Thalhauser, Center for Coastal Fisheries

1:00 pm Rockland Room

Balancing Perspectives: Commercial Fishermen and the Aquaculture Leasing Process

Over the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of commercial fishermen entering the aquaculture sector and a general increase in the number of aquaculture lease applications. Commercial fishermen may engage in the aquaculture lease process in various capacities. For example, they may be an aquaculture lease applicant, already hold a lease, or want to understand how they can effectively participate in the process if they have concerns about an aquaculture application. As such, they bring many perspectives to the leasing process. The goal of the seminar is to explore those perspectives by having a facilitated conversation about the leasing process. Panelists will include commercial fishermen who hold aquaculture leases and have participated in various aspects of the process. Panelists also include representatives from the Maine Aquaculture Association, Maine Sea Grant, and Department of Marine Resources. They will also share information about the leasing process from their professional perspectives and their work with commercial fishermen in the aquaculture sector. The seminar will have a conversational format and is intended to be interactive and approachable for audience members. The conversation will begin with an overview of the leasing process and a facilitated dialog among the panelists and audience about their questions and experience with the leasing process.

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Moderator: Natalie Springuel, Maine Sea Grant

Panel: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Association
Dana Morse, Darling Marine Center
Amanda Ellis, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Josh Conover, Islesboro Marine Enterprises
Robert Baines, Spruce Head Fishermen's Coop
Jeff Putnam, Lobster Fisherman, Chebeague Island

1:00 pm Rockport Room

Navigating Fishing Industry Stressors

Session objectives: 1) Acknowledge and legitimize current feelings of anger, distress and loss of control that fishermen are experiencing, 2) Provide fishermen and fishing families with the tools to manage stress in healthy and productive ways.

Seminar Outline:

- 1) Presenters will review recent fishing regulatory and industry challenges and how these have impacted the fishing community.
- 2) Highlight the physical and psychological manifestations of extreme stress and how these reactions are normal given the current context.
- 3) Discuss the concepts of moral injury, trauma, grief and solopsism and how this applies to fishermen.
- 4) Provide an abbreviated overview of how to deal productively with stress and how to support others who are struggling to cope:
 - Introduction to Fundamentals (5 steps of intervention, cultural considerations, role of intervener, resources).
 - Considerations before/during intervention (Stigma, person-first approaches, mental health challenges and disorders, substance use and abuse, helpful vs. unhelpful reassurance and information, early intervention, professional resources).
 - Demographics of mental illness (common disorders in the US).
 - Risk factors/protective factors (impact of trauma, recovery, self-care and support strategies).
 - Crisis situations.
 - Medical emergencies.
- 5) Show FPSS videos that feature fishermen talking about stress, grief and addiction

and how they have managed these challenges.

- 6) Discuss productive ways of dealing with stress-advocacy, letters to editor, policy-maker engagement.
- 6) Discuss tools, materials and workshops that fishermen and fishing communities can access to help support one another or individuals they know who are struggling.

The session will emphasize attendee engagement and interaction and will offer access to behavioral health staff, for those participants who would like to follow-up the seminar with a qualified counselor. Materials and hand-outs will also be supplied.

Host: Craig Stewart, Maine Lobstermen's Association
Moderator: Andi Pelletier, Maine Lobstermen's Association
Panelists: Kevin Luschen, Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety
JJ Bartlett, Fishing Partnership Support Services
Monique Coombs, Maine Coast Fishermen's Association
Nick Martin, Fisherman
Yvonne Rosen, Fisherman
Russell Kingman, Fisherman

1:00 pm Camden Room

Fishing Industry-Based Environmental Data Collection in the Northeastern United States

High resolution oceanographic data is useful in ocean forecasting, stock assessment, climate change projections, and commercial fishing operations. However, traditional methods of collecting this information (research cruises, deployment of buoys, etc.) are often prohibitively expensive, limiting the temporal and spatial scope of the data that can be collected. Several programs have developed in our region, leveraging partnerships between scientists and commercial fishermen to deploy environmental sensors more frequently. Here, we invite fishermen and scientists to discuss their participation in these programs, what's working well, what could be improved, and where can we work together to avoid reinventing the wheel. Feedback from industry members about how to make the data most useful to them is strongly encouraged.

Host: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Association
Moderator: George Maynard, NOAA Fisheries
Panelists: Cooper Van Vranken, Ocean Data Network
Owen Nichols, Center for Coastal Studies
Dave Bethoney, Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation
Josh Miller, *F/V Dorcas Anne*
Rodman Sykes, *F/V Virginia Marise*
Jim Barclay, *F/V Lina Rose*
Jordan Drouin, *F/V Devocean*
Dave Casoni, *F/V Margaret M*

2:45 pm Rockland Room

Alternative to Plastic Aquaculture Gear

Oyster and kelp aquaculture are the leading entry points for new farmers along the coast of Maine. Over the past decade the number of oyster farms has increased from three in the 1970s to 150 today. Similarly, kelp leases have increased from the first one in 2010 in Casco Bay to 94 leases this past year. Maine's 3500 miles of shoreline and vast number of bays, coves and tidal rivers offers ample opportunities for expansion of these industries within ecologically sound confines of ocean health and adaptation to rapidly warming waters in the Gulf of Maine.

Current aquaculture practices consistently employ environmentally harmful plastics for containing oysters using float bags or plastic coated wire traps. Containers are floated by black polyvinyl chloride air bladders. These plastics include carcinogens and endocrine disrupters that bioaccumulate in waterways through the food web, often ending up in human tissues with harmful effects (Yaru Han 2022).

Additionally, they degrade into micro- and nanoparticles with similar effects (Barrows et al 2018). Attitudes towards alternative flotation methods are skeptical; farmers are hesitant to rise trying new methods that could harm their bottom line. Our panel will present results from two summers of testing non-plastic alternative to traps and floats to introduce ecologically compatible gear for the aquaculture industry. Barrows will present key findings on the efficiency of wood and cork as flotation devices. She will share the metal mesh cage she designed to substitute for plastic coated wire cages and plastic mesh bags and how it works with cork, wood and mycelium-based floats. Campbell, one of Maine's early oyster farmers has pioneered oyster cages made from cedar wood that he is using along with a method to increase the efficiency of flipping cages every two weeks. Van Hook has spent a decade developing mycelium-based mushroom buoys to replace plastic gear. She will discuss new research scheduled for the 2023 season to test four buoy designs to accommodate currently deployed oyster traps in concert with testing two new biocompatible waterproof sealants against an unsealed control and a commercially sealed control. Fleming directs Greenhorns, a non-profit organization that invites aquaculture trailblazers to lead workshops about alternatives to plastics that can be adopted by willing participants. She also farms

oysters and kelp. Participants in this seminar will be asked to respond to a survey to assess their understanding of marine ecosystem health, the effects of plastic pollution on various fisheries and aquaculture operations, their willingness to adopt alternative gear, their concerns about costs, longevity and ease of transitions following a Q&A with the panelists.

Host: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Assn.

Moderator: Susan Van Hook, Haut Terrain

Panel: Severine Fleming, Smithereen Farm
Abigail Barrows, Long Cove Sea Farm
Adam Campbell, North Haven Oysters

2:45 pm Rockport Room

New Tech Meets an Old Challenge - Monitoring Stress Points in the Lobster Supply Chain

Current Interest: This session continues a discussion initiated at the 2020 Forum by giving a progress report on a research collaboration with the lobster industry. The University of Maine Lobster Institute is leading a research collaboration with the Maine Lobster Dealers Association and researchers from UMaine, St. Joseph's College of Maine, and the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve. The mortality or "shrink" incurred in the trade of live lobster is a long-standing problem exacerbated by a changing climate and volatile world market. The research partnership set out to answer the question, "How can we quantify and mitigate stress points in the supply chain that reduce survival and profitability in the lobster industry?" One of our biggest challenges is to develop a way to assess delayed mortality that comes days after a lobster experiences stress. It is likely the most common type of mortality, yet the most difficult to detect. Since the start of the project, a reflex action mortality predictor (RAMP) method for the American lobster was created by UMaine graduate student Cassie Leeman. This simple visual assessment - less involved than taking lobster blood samples - enabled us to predict delayed mortality accurately, a key advancement past methods could not address. This advancement has been coupled with new technology that tracks lobster heart rate and environmental exposure histories. Together, the new protocols and technology provide a wealth of data contributing to our understanding of the relationship between the conditions within the supply chain and post-harvest mortality. These innovations are advancing our understanding of the impact environmental stressors have on the physical health of lobsters in the supply chain.

Audience Engagement: Invited panelists include project collaborators named above from ME Lobster Dealers Association, ME Lobstermen's Assn, UMaine's Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory, School of Marine Sciences, St. Joseph's College of Maine, and Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve who will lay out project objectives, report progress to date, and give industry perspectives. The seminar will start with an overview of the project scope and approach. It will feature new results from experiments run during the summers of 2021 and 2022. The results of new technology developed to monitor environmental conditions and lobster health in live storage and shipping crates as they change hands through the supply chain are of particular interest. The audience will be engaged in a Q&A session to capture their observations on handling quality and challenges to reducing shrink. This information, combined with statistical data from the research, will help create the end product of this project: a "best practices" document to help mitigate factors that cause mortality in the supply chain. Canadian Marine Biologist Melanie Giffin will share her country's successes with "best practices" outreach. The Lobster Institute's director, Dr. Rick Wahle, will moderate a panel. This session will also give attendees a chance to learn of the Institute's initiatives to fully engage University of Maine faculty, students, and facilities with fishing industry research priorities.

Host: Dianne Tilton, Downeast Institute

Moderator: Dr. Rick Wahle, UM Darling Marine Center

Panel: Curt Brown, Ready Seafood
Ben Gutzler, Wells Reserve at Laudholm
Eric Payne, Inland Seafood Corporation
Damian Brady, Darling Marine Center

2:45 pm Camden Room

Understanding Injuries, Pain and Substance Use among Shellfish and Lobster Harvesters in Downeast Maine

In response to requests from fishing industry partners, a group of researchers with the Downeast Health Research Collaborative recently completed a pilot study to better understand how injury, chronic pain and substance use affect lobster and shellfish harvesters in Downeast Maine. The study aimed to get a more complete picture of the risks and challenges faced by harvesters and to identify workable solutions. We conducted surveys and interviews with harvesters, healthcare providers and fisheries advocates. They gave detailed information about the kinds of injuries harvesters experience, how they manage injuries and pain, and how, for some harvesters, injuries lead to drug-related problems. Participants also explained how regulations and culture play a role in injury risk and health, and they provided innovative ideas to improve health outcomes for harvesters in both fisheries. In this session, we will report on the study's findings and ask for feedback and input about further action on these issues.

Host: Gayle Zydlewski, Maine Sea Grant College Program
Moderator: Tora Johnson, University of Maine at Machias
Panelists: Debra Kantor, University of Maine at Orono
Gray Jones, University of Southern Maine
Joseph Spiller, University of Maine at Augusta
Lauren Sachs, Healthy Acadia
Katherine Darling, University of Maine at Augusta
Bridie McGreavy, University of Maine at Orono
Tara Casimir, University of Southern Maine
Lauren Sachs, Healthy Acadia