

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017

8:00 am Rockport Room

CPR Training

Preregistration is required for this Red Cross certified training course. The course will run from 8:00 am to 12:15 pm.

Host: Maine Fishermen's Forum Board of Directors

8:00 AM Rockland Room

Shellfish Focus Day

Part I - Informal meet and greet session with the members of the Shellfish Advisory Council to ask questions, discuss current topics, etc. Open forum style.

Part II - Biology Block

9:00-9:15am Overview of Freeport Clam Field Experiments and Implications for Management
9:15-9:45 am Clam Recruitment
9:45-10:15 am Using Clams as a Substrate to Enhance Wild Clam Seed
10:15-10:30 am Identification of Areas Most Affected by Milky Ribbon Worms

Part III - Policy & Legislative Block

10:45-11:15 am Who owns the Intertidal?
11:15-11:45 am Fisheries First: Legislation to Modernize Maine's Municipal Shellfish Programs
11:45-12:00 pm Lowering the Clam Size Limit and Instituting a Statewide Upper Size Limit

Part IV - Q&A Session with MAINE DEPT. OF MARINE RESOURCES Area Biologists (Monhegan Room)

Part V - Municipal Shellfish Management Block

Innovation Within Municipal Management and Industry

1:00-1:15 pm How do we innovate to strengthen shellfish co-management and industry? Recommendations from a study of Maine's municipal co-management system
1:15-1:30 pm Transitioning Maine's bivalve shellfish industry from current management methods based in myths to methods based in facts,
1:30-1:45 pm Business innovation strategies to grow the shellfish industry
2:00-2:30 pm Shellfish Wardens as Leaders
2:30 to 3:00 pm Municipal Management and Industry Discussion Session: How do we innovate across shellfish programs, industry, and with policy makers?

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Moderator: Kohl Kanwit, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Panel: Sara Randall, Downeast Institute
Dr. Brian Beal, Director of Research, Downeast Institute
Monique Coombs, Maine Coast Fishermen's Assn.
Tim Sheehan, Gulf of Maine, Inc.
A Washington County clam digger
Rep. Abden Simmons, Legislator, Waldoboro Shellfish Committee

Hannah Annis, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Pete Thayer, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Denis-Marc Nault, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Heidi Leighton, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Bridie McGreavy, University of Maine NEST and Shack
Sara Randall, University of Maine, NEST
Chad Coffin, Maine Clammers Association
Mike Pinkham, Shellfish Warden for Gouldsboro
Dan Deveraux, Shellfish Warden for Brunswick
Lewis Pinkham, Shellfish Warden for Millbridge
Bob Byron, Shellfish Warden for Yarmouth
Bridie McGreavy, University of Maine, NEST and SHAC
Peter Countway, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences

1:00 pm Fitness Center

Northeast Coastal Communities Sector

The Northeast Coastal Communities Sector is comprised of 26 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 2017 Fishing Year. The first hour is open to the public, and the second hour will be reserved for board members only.

Moderator: Patrick Shepard, Penobscot East Resource Center

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.

While the last few years has seen record lobster catches in the state of Maine, this is not the case in Southern New England waters where the warming waters have apparently adversely affected the population. Managers and fishermen to the north are obviously concerned about facing a similar situation and are concerned about the economic consequences.

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, erin@gomlf.org)

1:00 pm Rockport

First Aid Training

Preregistration is required for this Red Cross certified training course. The course will run from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

Host: Maine Fishermen's Forum Board of Directors

1:00 pm Camden Room

It Was a Dark and Stormy Night...Stories and Ideas for Survival at Sea

Join us to try on new, innovative personal flotation devices (PFDs). Hear stories about survival. Talk about the myths and realities surrounding survival. Share your experiences and suggest improvements for the design of existing life-saving equipment that would make it more comfortable and workable. Be part of the solution and pick up crucial information for surviving a fall overboard. Attendees will be entered in a drawing for a free Lifesling!

Did you know that falls overboard are the leading cause of death in the Northeast lobster fishery? According to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Center for Maritime Safety and Health Studies, they could largely be prevented with the regular use of personal flotation devices (PFDs).

Yet, fishermen consistently report that they do not regularly wear PFD's because they are not comfortable and can be difficult and dangerous to work in. With lives at stake, there is a strong need to redesign PFD's to meet the needs of lobster industry. To fill this gap, the Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety (NEC), Fishing Partnership Support Services (FPSS), and Northeast lobstermen are collaborating to document what does and does not work for lobstermen when it comes to PFD's and work to redesign them to meet the needs of this specific fishing sector.

Falls overboard will happen, but they do not have to be fatal. Losing a fisherman impacts not only the family, but the fishing community as a whole. The devastation from losing a loved one is compounded by the impact of a fatality on the emotional health and financial well-being of a victim's family and coworkers.

Come learn more about this project and give your input on how to help prevent fatalities from falls overboard.

Host: Craig Stewart, Maine Lobstermen's Assn.

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

Panel: Julie Sorensen, Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety
Luis Catala, Fishing Partnership Support Services
Ed Dennehy, Fishing Partnership Support Services
Mike Jackson, Grundens USA

2:45 pm Camden Room

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2017

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 you immersion suits. Bring your suit or try one of ours in the heated pool Friday and Saturday morning.

Host: Kevin Plowman, USCG SNNE

Panel: Garry Moores
Brian Smith

9:00 am Rockland Room

Groundfish Monitoring Amendment - Public Scoping Hearing

The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will consider changes to the groundfish monitoring system to make sure it is providing accurate catch information that is needed to manage the fishery in a cost-effective way. The Council seeks your input on how those objectives may be accomplished.

Host: Maggie Raymond, Associated Fisheries of Maine

Moderator: Maggie Raymond, Associated Fisheries of Maine

Panel: Jamie Cournane, New England Fishery Management Council
Terry Stockwell, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources,
Chair of the NEFMC Groundfish Committee

9:00 am Rockport Room

Maine Lobstermen's Association 63rd Annual Meeting

The Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) announces its 63rd Annual Meeting. This year's meeting will focus on strategies to address enforcement issues facing the lobster industry.

The MLA welcomes DMR Commissioner Pat Keliher as our keynote speaker to discuss the state's efforts to improve enforcement. This will include an overview of the state's administrative suspension system and its impressive track record in suspending licenses of those who have violated marine resource laws. Maine's Marine Patrol chief, Jon Cornish, and several others from Maine's Marine Patrol will be in attendance to answer questions. The MLA will present a summary of the results of the industry-wide survey on lobster enforcement issues.

As always, the MLA membership will conduct its annual election and there will be door prizes for MLA members who attend. MLA members, family and the public are encouraged to attend to and share their questions and ideas. See you there!

Special thank you to our generous sponsors: Brooks Trap Mill, Friendship Trap, Frazier Trap and McMillan Offshore Survival.

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 Rockland Room

Halibut Management and Science

The Atlantic halibut fishery has long provided an economic opportunity for Maine fishermen. Although the stock is considered overfished, and there are restrictive regulations in place, recent landings suggest that the population may be increasing. This seminar will provide an overview of state and federal management as well as an update on the status of the science and management efforts needed to support and enhance both the state and federal fisheries

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Moderator: Terry Stockwell, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Panel: Patrick Keliher, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Jamie Cournane, New England Fishery Management Council
Paul Rago, Contractor, New England Fishery Management Council
Sarah Heil, NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Terry Alexander, *F/Vs Jocka and Rachel T.*
Gerry Cushman, *F/V Bug Catcha*

10:30 am Rockport Room

Eastern Maine Skippers Program Collaborative Project: Maintaining Sustainable Ocean Food Systems

High school students involved in the 2016 -17 Eastern Maine Skippers Program (EMSP) are looking into what it takes to maintain sustainable ocean food systems. The EMSP is a regionalized program which aims to provide aspiring commercial fishermen and fishing community leaders in schools from North Haven to Eastport, the skills needed to be successful in a time of rapid environmental and regulatory change. The Maine Fishermen's Forum is an important part of the EMSP annual curriculum. We are seeking to introduce young future fishermen and industry members to the forum, get them comfortable with the location and dialogue, and provide them with a working example of how important feedback, critical thinking, and exchange of ideas is to the fishing business. Hopefully, they will become the leaders of tomorrow.

In order to better understand how to restore and maintain sustainable ocean food systems, students have started the school year by digging into the biology, ecology and history of local fisheries and aquaculture initiatives. At this session, students from eight coastal Maine high schools will present posters that describe their long-term project proposals. Students are hoping to get critical feedback from industry stakeholders and community members interested in helping them increase the value and relevance of their research.

Since 2012, when Deer Isle Stonington High School and Penobscot East Resource Center collaborated to create the Eastern Maine Skippers Program, hundreds of students in coastal communities have benefited from an academic program designed specifically for them. This year, over eighty high school students from Vinalhaven, North Haven, Deer Isle-Stonington, George Stevens Academy, Ellsworth, MDI, Jonesport-Beals and Narraguagus High Schools are participating in the program via technology-based "anytime, anywhere" learning, field trips, and statewide workshops we call "cohort days."

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

Moderator: Christina Fifield, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries

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

1:00 pm Rockland Room

Scallop Management in Federal Waters in the Gulf of Maine

The New England Fishery Management Council has identified the management of the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) federal scallop as a work priority in 2017. This session will focus on scallop management in federal waters in the Gulf of Maine, along with survey work completed by UMaine and ME DMR in 2016. Researchers from UMaine will present results of the 2016 survey of the NGOM Management Area, which formed the total allowable catch for the area in 2017. Council staff will present general information on the federal scallop fishery management plan (FMP) as well as the rules and regulations governing the NGOM Management Area, and data from recent fishing activity in the area. Staff will also review the timing and mechanics of the Council process. Presentations will be followed by a panel discussion with federally permitted scallop fishermen, researchers and fishery managers.

Host: Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation
Moderator: Deirdre Boelke, New England Fishery Management Council
Panel: Kristan Porter, F/V Whitney & Ashley
Vincent Balzano, F/V Northstar
Tom Reilly, F/V Three Graces
Travis Ford, NOAA
Michael Torre, University of Maine
Jonathon Peros, New England Fishery Management Council

1:00 pm Rockport Room

Grab the Future by the Claws: Thinking Ahead for your Fishing Family and Community

We have seen unprecedented changes in the lobster industry over the last decade. This year, boat prices were high for lobster fishermen, but so was the price of bait, and many came away from the year with questions about what lies ahead for their businesses. To address this uncertainty, fishermen can take a variety of actions to expand and diversify their incomes through things like aquaculture and financial planning, but in many cases, fishermen see opportunities and challenges that can't be tackled at the individual level alone.

This session will focus on ways that groups of individuals, including families, cooperatives, and communities can take collective action to sustain a strong marine economy. Examples include fishermen-owned and vertically-integrated lobster businesses, fishermen that have worked together to diversify into aquaculture, community initiatives to increase broadband access, and more.

Host: Paul Anderson, Maine Sea Grant
Moderator: Bri Warner, Island Institute
Panel: Josh Conover, Islesboro Marine Enterprises
Boe Marsh, Community Shellfish
Peter Miller, Maine Aquaculture Co-op
John Jordan, Calendar Islands Maine Lobster
Malcolm Fernald, Town of Cranberry Isles

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: Samuel Rauch, Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
John Bullard, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
John Hare, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

2:45 pm Rockport Room

Update on Herring Actions Under Development and Lobster Bait

Proposed herring and menhaden management actions at the New England Fishery Management Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission may affect both the pelagic and lobster fisheries in 2017. This session will provide an overview of what is being discussed at the federal, interstate and state level that may impact the availability and cost of bait this summer.

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Moderator: Terry Stockwell, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Panel: Deirdre Boelke, New England Fishery Management Council
Matt Cieri, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Megan Ware, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

3:30 - 5:30 PM Golf Club

Penobscot East Resource Center, invites you to join us for a celebration!

We will reveal our new name: Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries

Join our board and staff members! Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and 1 FREE drink on us – (21+)

Same organization. Same mission. Same vision.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017

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 you 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

9:00 am Golf Club

Maine Elver Fishermen's Association - Annual Meeting

There will be a MEFA Annual meeting followed by: DMR and ASMFC Updates; and life cycle study; Maine eel trade and aquaculture; Aquaculture in Maine; Riparian and property rights; and good land owner relations. At the end there will be a question and answer session.

Host: Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation

Moderator: Jeffrey Pierce, Alewife Harvesters of Maine

Panel: Darrell Young, Alewife Harvesters of Maine
Abden Simmons, Alewife Harvesters of Maine
Cory Hawkes, Alewife Harvesters of Maine
Mitch Feigenbaum, Alewife Harvesters of Maine

9:00 am Rockland Room

Maine Lobster Boat Racing Association 2017 Pre-Season Meeting

The Maine Lobster Boat Racing Association (MLBRA) will hold its annual pre-season meeting at the Forum to discuss the upcoming 2017 race season. No changes to the existing classes or rules were announced at the MLBRA 2016 Awards Banquet last fall. All are invited to the Forum 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
TBA, Bass Harbor event contact
Dot Black, Rockland event contact
Adrien Rittenhouse, Moosebec event contact
Genevieve Kurelic McDonald, Stonington event contact
TBA, Friendship event contact
Lisa Kimball, Long Island event contact
Chris Byers, Winter Harbor event contact
Brent Fogg, Pemaquid event contact

9:00 am Rockport Room

Proposed Deepwater Coral Closures in the Gulf of Maine

Maine lobstermen fishing around Schoodic Ridges and Mount Desert Rock will want to attend this session to become better informed about the New England Fishery Management Council's Draft Deep-Sea Coral Amendment. Closures in the Gulf of Maine are proposed that could impact fixed gear

fishermen. Learn more about the proposed closures, the timeline for decision-making, and how to make sure your voice is heard.

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Moderator: Terry Stockwell, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Panel: Carl Wilson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Kathleen Reardon, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

9:00 am Camden Room

The Seaweed Industry of Maine Past, Present and Future

Maine has a robust wild harvest seaweed industry that is maturing with broadening markets and new product innovation. Growth in the industry is now being augmented with farmed seaweed production presenting even more potential species and products. Long time industry participants are seeing a steady increase in demand. Aquaculture innovators are creating more crop diversity and insuring a steady stream of new raw materials. The University of New England through its Marine Science Department is training the next generation of entrepreneurs to this industry. In a time of declining fisheries in Maine the seaweed industry is unique in that it is growing. The USA is significantly behind in worldwide seaweed production. This presents an opportunity to generate future jobs both on and off the water. On the water jobs will be in harvesting and farming both of which dovetail nicely with existing fisheries infrastructure. Other jobs will be in food science labs, product development, sales, food service and marine infrastructure. Much of the gear used in aquaculture is similar to that used in existing commercial fisheries and will help address lagging sales by diversification at these establishments. Food production, packaging, sales, transportation, and warehousing will also benefit. Food science, seed production, and discovery of new uses will encourage further studies and drive product development. The panel will educate session participants with an in depth overview of all these needs. Participants will have an opportunity to ask seasoned experts questions about both wild and farmed seaweed production.

Host: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Assn.

Moderator: Tollef Olson, Ocean's Approved, Inc.

Panel: Shep Erhart – Maine Coast Sea Vegetables
Nichole Price - Bigelow Labs
George Seaver – Ocean Organics

10:30 am Golf Club

Alewife Harvesters of Maine - Annual Meeting

AHOM annual meeting, DMR updates, Dam Removal process, The Effects of Water Flows High and Low, and what it means for the alewife stock. There will also be information on the Phippsburg Center Pond restoration and tagging project, with a question and answer session at the end.

Host: Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation

Moderator: Jeffrey Pierce, Alewife Harvesters of Maine

Panel: Landis Hudson, Alewife Harvesters of Maine
Dr. Theo Willis, University of Southern Maine
Dr. Jake Kritzer, Alewife Harvesters of Maine
Peter Roberts, Alewife Harvesters of Maine
Shari Lilly, Alewife Harvesters of Maine
Ann Pierce, Alewife Harvesters of Maine

10:30 am Rockland Room

THE FOOD GUYS: What's in the Bowl?

We order a bowl of soup, stew or chowder and never give its' history a moment's thought. Did we ever think about the origins of soups and where they originally came from? Let's take a culinary trip around the world to learn about several soups, stews and chowders, learn their origins, and how soup can be your blank palate to a world of flavors and textures. So come join us to have some fun, learn a few things about something as simple as soup, and learn, "What's in the Bowl"!

Extra! This is the 15th year of "The Food Guys" cooking show. To celebrate their anniversary, they have published "The Food Guys" cookbook which includes all of their recipes, cooking tips, and more! All money made by sale of the cookbook will benefit the Forum scholarship fund. See Chef Jim or the registration desk for information on getting one of these cookbooks!

Host: Kristan Porter, *F/V Whitney & Ashley*
Gerry Cushman, *F/V Bug Catcher*
Steve Train, *F/V Wild Irish Rose*

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

10:30 am Rockport Room

DMR Lobster 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. Researchers from the University of Maine will present their Rapid Resource Program, a new resource for industry. The panel will discuss the potential implications of the data collected by these monitoring programs.

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Moderator: Terry Stockwell, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Panel: Carl Wilson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Kathleen Reardon, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Robert Russell, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Deborah Bouchard, University of Maine
Rick Wahle, Darling Marine Center

10:30 am Camden Room

State of the Ecosystem

Fishermen experience ecosystem changes first hand, while scientists use remote sensing, research data collections, models, and other data streams. This session will share scientific information with the Maine Fishermen's Forum community. We will review the current contents of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center "State of the Ecosystem Report", which provides "big picture" information on climate, habitats, food webs, and fishery performance to complement the fishery management process throughout the Northeast US. We will also seek advice and collaboration to improve information sources, presentation, analysis, and relevance.

Host: Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation

Moderator: Sara Gaichas, NOAA Northeast Science Center

Panel: Dr. Sean Lucey, NOAA Northeast Science Center
Dr. Kevin Friedland, NOAA Northeast Science Center
Dr. Michael Fogarty, NOAA Northeast Science Center
Dr. Jon Hare, Director, Northeast Science Center

1:00 pm Rockland Room

Happy and Healthy Lobsters - Keep the Stress Down and The Profits Up!

Don't let your lobsters get stressed out! Like humans, lobsters do not like stress. But unlike humans, once a lobster feels stress, it has a hard time calming down. The unique anatomy and physiology of the lobster makes it far more susceptible to stress than humans.

Dr. Jean Lavallée, a lobster veterinarian and the region's premiere lobster health expert, will present a workshop chronicling what it is like for a lobster to go from the comfort of the ocean floor to a processing plant or holding facility. It's a simple process for humans – but if you are a lobster -- this is a long journey full of stress and surprise.

Lavallée speaks on behalf of the lobster, explaining how its body functions and how and why it experiences stress. Lobsters can be deceptive when it comes to their health. They often look healthy on the outside. But a look just below the surface reveals that there is much more to it. Lobsters have a fascinating anatomy – its stomach is behind its head, its heart is on its back and it has one nerve cord that travels along the bottom of the body. Because of its anatomy, travelling from the ocean floor to the boat, landing on of another lobster in a crate, or simply resting in a barrel of water that is not cooled can be very stressful. Too much stress can cause a lobster to become weak, injured or even die.

In addition to the biology of the lobster, environmental factors such as diet, water temperatures and molt cycle can affect its health. Handling practices and the holding environment can cause changes in the lobster's physiological state and therefore put stress on the animal. Poor handling can also result in injury to the lobster such as a punctured abdomen, lost claws, cracked shells or broken legs. Minimizing stress and injury on lobsters will produce a healthier lobster, and more profits for the industry.

Lavallée will also cover what has been learned about best practices that can be used on the boat, at the dock and during transportation to minimize stress and injury to the lobster to preserve its quality and value.

If you are unable to make this workshop, additional workshops will be offered the week of March 6. FMI, contact the Maine Lobstermen's Association. Special thanks to Maine Sea Grant for providing funding for this workshop.

Host: Craig Stewart, Maine Lobstermen's Assn.

Moderator: Patrice McCarron, Maine Lobstermen's Assn.

Panel: Dr. Jean Lavallée

1:00 pm Rockport Room

Maine Seafood for Maine People: Connecting Producers and Buyers to Increase Access and Sales

This session is aimed at bringing together Maine seafood producers, buyers and distributors to provide information on how these groups can connect more easily or economically. Panelists will include buyers interested in increasing their seafood purchases, regulators with information on what fishermen need to keep in mind if they wish to sell direct, and fishermen who have been successful with direct marketing.

With examples from here and away, the session will discuss what collaborative actions could be taken here in Maine to increase direct sales opportunities. A major goal of the session is to facilitate connections at and beyond the Forum to enhance opportunities for more direct seafood sales.

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information on how these groups can connect more easily or economically. Panelists will include a variety of buyers interested in increasing their seafood purchases, regulators with information on what fishermen need to keep in mind if they wish to sell direct, and fishermen who have been successful with direct marketing.

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Host: Togue Brawn, Downeast Dayboat Scallops
Moderator: Sandy Gilbreath, Maine Food Strategy
Panel: Jeff Nichols, Maine Department of Marine Resources
Abigail Carrol, Nonesuch Oysters
Tim Rider, F/V Finlander and NE Fish Mongers
Kerry Altiero, Café Miranda

1:00 pm Camden Room

Aquaculture Opportunities for Fishermen

Aquaculture represents an opportunity for Maine fishermen to diversify their incomes and to take advantage of strong market demand. The integration of aquaculture into our seafood industry can help to maintain strong working waterfronts and other shoreside infrastructure. There is a lot to learn for new producers, from permitting and regulation, to choosing a site, selecting what species to grow, and the right kinds of equipment and care. In this session, we'll introduce the important topics, the potentials for different species, and resources to help new growers get up and running.

Host: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Assn.
Moderator: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Assn.
Panel: Chris Davis, PhD, Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center
Dana Morse, Maine Sea Grant / Univ. of Maine Cooperative Extension
Diantha Robinson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Hannah Horecka, Maine Dept of Marine Resources
Hugh Cowperthwaite, Coastal Enterprises Inc.

2:45 pm Monhegan Room

EPA 'Tier 4' Emissions Rule - How It Will Impact Boat Owners

With an original date of January 1st 2017, the EPA is requiring all engines over 804bhp to meet 'Tier 4' regulations. This date has since been pushed back giving engine manufacturers until October 2017 to fully comply. Tier 4 will impose major reductions in NOx, particulate matter, and hydrocarbons. This will have a direct impact on boat builders and boat owners looking to repower or build new with over 804hp. In order to reduce NOx further, special on-engine or off-engine technologies will have to be introduced. This will increase the overall amount of space needed to install these engines. This seminar will give important information to boat owners whose vessels will be affected by the regulations.

Host: Steve Train, F/V Hattie Rose
Moderator: Steve Train, F/V Hattie Rose
Panel: Peter Emerson, Mack Boring

2:45 pm Rockland Room

Make it Maine -- Marketing Maine Lobster in 2016 and 2017

MLMC executive director Matt Jacobson and representatives from Maine Lobster's global marketing firm, Weber Shandwick, will share results from the 2016 marketing program, which focused on increasing demand and awareness of Maine Lobster and Maine New Shell Lobster among chefs, culinary professionals, media and consumers using marketing tools including events, media relations and social media. They will also share plans for continuing to buoy demand and awareness in 2017.

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Moderator: Matt Jacobson, Maine Lobster Marketing Council

Panel: Dorree Gurdack, Weber Shandwick
George Snell, Weber Shandwick
Allyson Hoar, Weber Shandwick
Frank Gotwals, Maine Lobster Marketing Council

2:45 pm Rockport Room

Accessing Fisheries and Boatbuilding Images Online from Penobscot Marine Museum

Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport collects, preserves and provides access to photographs of the Maine Fishing Industry and Boatbuilders. An online database of their newest collection of National Fisherman images has recently gone live. This collection joins the Maine Sardine Council, Atlantic Fisherman, Red Boutilier and other Maine photographic images available through the Museum's website.

Join staff from Penobscot Marine Museum as they guide attendees through the new National Fisherman image database and the museum website, highlighting some iconic fisheries images. Put the database through its paces by requesting images of a favorite Maine harbor, fishery, boat and boat builder at the session. Go home and search the website for that picture of Dad or your boat taken when they were both young, hale and hearty.

Host: Sheila Dassatt, Downeast Lobstermen's Assn.

Moderator: Sheila Dassatt, Downeast Lobstermen's Assn.

Panel: Cipperly A. Good, Penobscot Marine Museum

2:45 pm Camden Room

Scallop Aquaculture

This seminar will provide an overview of scallop aquaculture efforts in Maine of the past 18 years. Emphasis will be placed on current efforts that are underway in Maine to develop a robust scallop aquaculture industry for growers including techniques recently learned from Aomori, Japan. An open discussion will include several photos and video demonstrations of various equipment (from Japan) designed to handle high volume scallop production. Aquaculturists and fishermen with experience collecting and growing scallops will share their knowledge and insights. The session will wrap up with an overview of future plans of grow out and equipment trails to demonstrate financial feasibility of scallop farming in New England waters.

Host: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Association

Moderator: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Association

Panel: Hugh Cowperthwaite, Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
Dana Morse, Maine Sea Grant College Program, Univ. of Maine Cooperative Ext.