

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2006

8:00 am Rockland, Rockport, Camden Rooms

NEW FISHING GEAR: CUTTING EDGE OR A WASTE OF TIME?

This year's all-day Thursday session will be focused on recent gear developments and will be titled "New Fishing Gear: Cutting Edge or Wasting Time?" The session will combine talks on recent gear developments and fishing technologies with displays of mobile and fixed fishing gear and demonstrations of how gear works. A combination of fishermen, scientists and gear engineers will be featured in a series of talks while allowing attendees time to visit displays of various types of fishing gear, scale models, under-water videos and other images.

Host: Paul Anderson, Maine Sea Grant

Moderator: Jerry Fraser, National Fisherman

Panel: Kristan Porter, F/V Whitney & Ashley
Paul Winger, Memorial University, Newfoundland
Chris Glass, Northeast Consortium
Philip Walsh, Memorial University, Newfoundland

1:00 pm Pen Bay Room

Maine Softshell Clam Advisory Council/ Dept. of Marine Resources

We all know last year was a devastating year for the Shellfish industry; clams and mussels both. Flats were closed for weeks. Are we repeating what happened in the 1970s? Guest speaker, Dr. Donald Anderson of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute will give us the latest on trends, research, weather indications on perhaps what this year will bring for the shellfish industry. DMR lab staff will give us the latest on laboratory upgrades happening in Boothbay and Lamoine.

Host: Kathleen Billings, Stonington Fisheries Alliance

Moderator: Kathleen Billings, SFA

Panel: Dr. Donald M. Anderson, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
Amy Fitzpatrick, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Darcie Couture, DMR
Mercudo Cumbo, DMR
Rob Goodwin, DMR

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2006

9:00 am Pen Bay Room

Maine Lobstermen's Association Annual Meeting

The Maine Lobstermen's Association announces its 52nd Annual Meeting. All MLA members and family are strongly encouraged to attend. Vince O'Shea, Executive Director of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will be our guest speaker. Mr. O'Shea will update the MLA membership on current ASMFC business including the new lobster stock assessment and the possibility of a new lobster plan. The agenda will also include updates on pressing issues, priorities for the upcoming year and election of Directors. There will be a free membership raffle for 2005 V-notch survey participants and door prizes for members who are present!!! Hope to see you there!

Host: Patrice McCarron, MLA

Panel: Vince O'Shea, ASMFC
MLA Directors

9:00 am North Samoset Room

Development of Video Exploration and Mapping Capability: Tools and Methods

This seminar is for fishermen interested in building their own underwater video equipment. Presenters have developed a project to design and field test inexpensive submersible video/lighting arrays that can be used by fishermen in future research partnerships in marine ecology, geology, archeology and environmental monitoring. This is an opportunity to look at various designs, the types of equipment available commercially, and to discuss how they can be adapted to different research purposes.

Host: Mary Beth Tooley, East Coast Pelagic Association

Moderator: John Williamson

Panel: Bill Lee

9:00 am Rockland Room

Offshore Energy Issues

What's ahead for fisheries as offshore energy issues begin to take center stage? The panel will update us on federal changes to gas leasing, wind farms, seismic inventories and LNG shipping. Potential impacts in fisheries and conflicts with fishermen over access, safety and navigation will be discussed.

Host: Judy Harris, Associated Fisheries of Maine

Moderator: Judy Harris, Associated Fisheries of Maine

Panel: Vivian Newman, Sierra Club

9:00 am Rockport Room

Safety at Sea & Fatigue

Longer trips and smaller crews – fatigue is playing an ever increasing role in at-sea accidents. What can be done? The panel will offer suggestions to help curb this growing problem.

Host: Beth Freeman, Maine Fishermen's Forum Board of Directors

Moderator: Judy Harris, Associated Fisheries of Maine

Panel: USCG Representatives

10:30 am Pen Bay Room

Lobster Stock Assessment

The American Lobster resource presents a mixed picture; stable or increasing abundance for the Georges Bank stock and much of the Gulf of Maine stock; and decreased abundance and recruitment, and continued high fishing mortality for the Southern New England Stock. With the completion of the 2005 ASMFC lobster stock assessment, lobster assessments and management enter a new era. Recommendations have been made on stock status, new reference points have been suggested, and innovative models

are waiting in the wings for the round. Come listen to a brief summary of the assessment results and participate in a discussion of what this means as we move forward.

Host: David Etnier, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Moderator: Carl Wilson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Panel: Yon Chen, University of Maine

10:30 am North Samoset Room

Scallops – Amendment 11

Public outreach session for Amendment 11 to the Federal Scallop Management Plan.

Host: Kristan Porter, F/V Whitney & Ashley

Moderator: Kristan Porter, F/V Whitney & Ashley

Panel: Geoff Day, Executive Director, General Category Coalition of N.E.
Deirdre Boelke, New England Fishery Management Council

10:30 am Rockland Room

Diversification of Fisheries – How Can We Get Back to Being Fishermen instead of Lobstermen, Scallopers, Groundfishermen, etc.?

Dare we think about being fishermen again, not locked into single fisheries? One thing most fishermen agreed on at the Forum's Thursday session last year was that their business would be better and the resources might be healthier if they could do a mix of types of fishing again. Before it is too late, let's start the conversation in Maine with fishermen who remember when...and those who are hard up against the problems of only one fishery. Big and small, East and West, small steps could be started forward building back diversified fishing.

Host: Kathleen Billings, Stonington Fisheries Alliance

Moderator: Robin Alden, Stonington Fisheries Alliance

Panel:

10:30 am Rockport Room

New Tools to Help Save Maine's Working Waterfront

Maine's Working Waterfront Coalition has been hard at work over the past few years to create new tools to keep Maine's fishing communities viable and waterfronts working. Two important new programs will soon be underway after being approved by the Legislature last spring, and by Maine citizens during this past November election. Maine DMR and SPO will be managing the new Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program, which was made possible for \$2 million in bond money passed under Question 5. The program will provide up to 50% of the acquisition costs for waterfront businesses in order to prevent working waterfront from being converted to other uses. The current use tax program, Question 7 on the ballot will allow "waterfront land used to support commercial fishing" to be taxed as a fishing business. The details of exactly how the program will be defined and run will be worked out by the Legislature this spring. Come and learn more about how these two exciting new programs can help fishermen like you and your communities save your working waterfronts.

Host: Patrice McCarron, MLA

Moderator: Jen Litteral, Island Institute

Panel: Jim Connors, Maine Coastal Program
Cindy Smith, Maine DMR
Senator Dennis Damon, Maine Legislature

1:00 pm Pen Bay Room

Inshore Trawl Survey – How Is It Useful?

The Inshore Trawl Survey began its 6th year this fall. Results are emerging that affect fisheries management. A brief update of recent survey findings and uses will be followed by a panel discussion with industry members who will share their perspectives on the survey. We intend for this to be an interactive discussion about the value of the survey, how results are being used, and what questions industry members would like answered.

Host: David Etnier, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Moderator: David Etnier, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Panel: Sally Sherman, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Keri Stepanek, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
John Sowles, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

1:00 pm North Samoset Room

Water Quality Issues

Host: Allyson Jordan, MFCA

Moderator:

Panel:

Host: Kristan Porter, F/V Whitney & Ashley

Moderator: Kristan Porter, F/V Whitney & Ashley

Panel:

1:00 pm Rockland Room

Where Are We Going With Groundfish Management?

We're nearly three years in to groundfish management under Amendment 13. We've got (1) MSFCMA changes pending in Congress; (2) some 42 frameworks, and (3) a GARM report that states we've much work to do, and (4) many other significant issues such as habitat and bycatch management. Is Maine and its fishing community improved by Amendment 13 measures? How about the rest of New England's fishing communities? This session will take stock of where we are with groundfish management and whether the current course is right for the future.

Host: David Etnier, Maine DMR

Moderator: Commissioner George LaPointe, Maine DMR

Panel: Pat Kurkul, Regional Manager, NOAA Fisheries

Paul Howard, Executive Director, NEFMC

Jim Odlin, Portland Vessel Owner & NEFMC Member

Jim Wilson, Downeast Groundfish Group

John Pappalardo, Cape Cod Hook Fishermen Assn. & NEFMC Member

1:00 pm Rockport Room

Bay Management: What Could it Mean for Fisheries?

In 2004 the Maine Legislature directed DMR and the State Planning Office to conduct a bay management study to explore and document potential innovative approaches to managing Maine's nearshore marine environment, and to report back to the Legislature with recommendations in January 2007. The study is now more than half complete, and people are beginning to put forward possible ideas and approaches for consideration by the staff and steering committee. To date, the fishing industry has participated in the study to only a limited degree. The staff and steering committee are very interested in capturing your comments and concerns about how certain proposals may impact you in the future as well as ideas that you may have about how bay management could improve fisheries, or other aspects of coastal management. At this session, staff will share some of the ideas that have been proposed to date, and ask for your feedback on what these suggestions may mean for the fishing industry.

Host: David Etnier, Maine DMR

Moderator: David Etnier, Maine DMR

Panel: Kathleen Leyden, Maine DMR

Deirdre Gilbert, Maine DMR

2:45 pm Pen Bay Room

Update on Whales

This spring there will be new federal rules amending the current Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan. Four of the six proposed alternatives will prohibit the future use of poly groundlines in 2008. DMR has been working with the Maine lobster industry, NOAA and the Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation to develop and test fishing gear modifications that will equally protect both the fishermen and large whales. Join us to learn what's in store for fishermen with respect to whale regulations and potential gear modifications. Results of ongoing collaborative research towards the development of low-profile groundlines and other risk reduction measures will be presented.

Host: David Etnier, Maine DMR

Moderator: Terry Stockwell, Maine DMR
Panel: Stephen Robbins III, Maine DMR
Pat White, Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation
John Higgins, NOAA Protected Resources Gear Specialist

2:45 pm North Samoset Room

Maine Lobster Apprentice Program - Safety Component

The Department of Marine Resources Commercial Fishing Safety Council recommends a daily component be required to complete the lobster apprentice program. Discussion will take place on the course requirements.

Host: David Etnier, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Moderator: **L. Blair Pyne**

Panel: **Robert Baines**

Robert Odlin

Thomas Pottle

Philip Rosen

Vincent Balzano

Gareth Anderson

Jim Whitten

Carey Gregor

James Simonitsch

Yvette Alexander, MFWA

John McMillan

2:45 pm Rockland Room

Moving Magnuson in 2006

The reauthorization of the most significant piece of federal legislation that impacts federally managed fisheries in Maine and across the nation is moving forward. The Magnuson –Stevens Act (MSA), originally enacted in 1976, was most recently amended through the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) in 1996. The Act establishes a national framework for conserving and managing marine fisheries within a 200-mile wide zone contiguous to the United States through eight Regional Fishery Management Councils. Since the last reauthorization of the Act expired six years ago there has been an ongoing debate on how to best amend the MSA to reflect the current status of fisheries conservation and management in the US. Creating regional flexibility, sustaining fish and fishermen, and improving science have all been important goals identified in the advancement of this bill.

On December 15, 2005, the Senate Commerce Committee approved the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2005. Maine's Senator Olympia Snowe, as Chair of the Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries and Coast Guard and Co-Sponsor of the bill, has been pivotal in keeping Maine's interests at the forefront during this evolving process.

Join this panel for a discussion of how provisions in the Senate bill will impact New England fishermen and what steps to expect next in 2006 as the Congressional reauthorization process for MSA continues

Host: Mary Beth Tooley, East Coast Pelagic Assn.

Moderator: Mary Beth Tooley, East Coast Pelagic Assn. & Maggie Raymond, AFM

Panel: Drew Minkiewicz, General Counsel, US Senate Commerce Subcommittee

George Lapointe, Commissioner, Maine DMR

Paul Howard, New England Fishery Management Council

2:45 pm Rockport Room

Multispecies Capacity Reduction Initiative

Several fishing industry representatives from around the New England region have constructed a strawman proposal for an industry funded capacity reduction initiative of New England Groundfish. Details of this proposal will be provided.

Host: Judy Harris, Associated Fisheries of Maine

Moderator: Judy Harris, Associated Fisheries of Maine

Panel: David V.D. Borden, Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries
Barbara Stevenson, F/V owner, Portland, Maine

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2006

9:00 am Pen Bay Room

Maine Lobster Boat Racing Association (MLBRA) Annual Meeting

This is the annual membership meeting of MLBRA. We will have election of officers, review of 2005 season and plan 2006 season. We will also review rules and race classes.

Host: Steve Curtis, Commercial Fisheries News

Moderator: Clive Farrin, MLBRA

Panel: Keith Young
Keith Otis

9:00 am North Samoset Room

Impacts of Mobile Fishing Gear on Benthic Habitat: Science and Industry Perspectives

The question of the extent and severity of benthic impacts by mobile fishing gear is controversial. Several science and industry partnerships in the Northeast are trying to answer these questions. From an industry and scientific perspective, this seminar will address what we currently understand the short and long-term habitat impacts to be, as well as discuss what mitigation strategies have been tried and are currently under development.

Host:

Moderator: Dr. Ken LaValley, NH Sea Grant and UNH Cooperative Extension

Panel: Dr. Joseph DeAlteris, URI Fisheries Center
Dr. Pingguo He, UNH
Frank Mirarchi, Mirarchi Inc.
Dr. Ray Grizzle, UNH Jackson Estuarine Laboratory
Cameron McLellan, F/V Adventurer

9:00 am Rockland Room

Unraveling the Economic Health of the Gulf of Maine Lobster Industry

How much do we really know about the lobster industry? We know that it is extremely important to the state of Maine and the region economically, socially and culturally. We know that the fishery was worth over \$285 million in 2004. But what would happen to the fishery or the state or to local towns if there was a downturn in the lobster resource? How do we define the fishery as a group of vulnerable small businesses? The Gulf of Maine Research Institute is conducting "A Socio-economic Study of the Lobster Industry to better understand the industry in terms of its employment statistics, how vulnerable individual fishing businesses are to a decline in landings, and how management changes may affect various sectors of the industry and the communities in which they live. GMRI has undertaken a survey of the lobster industry to help answer these questions. This session will focus on the type of information being collected and how the information will be used.

Host: Patrice McCarron, MLA

Moderator: Laura Singer, Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Panel: Dan Holland, GMRI
Toni Kerns, ASMFC
Dave Casoni, Mass. Lobstermen's Assn.
Bob Baines, Maine Lobstermen's Assn.

9:00 am Rockport Room

Mussel Aquaculture

A how-to seminar on two methods of mussel farming, raft and bottom culture. Representatives from both mussel raft and bottom culture farms will outline basic methods. An update on the development of a submersible mussel raft will also be given. Seminar will end with a meeting of parties interested in forming a mussel working group.

Host: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Association

Moderator: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Association

Panel: Theo de Konig, Mussel Harvestors LLC
Dana Morse, Maine Sea Grant

9:00 am Camden Room

Collaborative Northeast Groundfish Tagging Program: Preliminary Results and Potential Applications

Tagging studies in the Northeast region have proven to be a valuable and effective form of collaborative research involving large numbers of commercial and recreational fishermen and scientists. Research partnerships established between industry and science throughout the region have facilitated the collection of quality information on movement, migration and mortality for some of New England's key commercial Groundfish species, including Atlantic cod, Yellowtail flounder and Atlantic haddock. Preliminary analysis of these data is underway and researchers will be discussing how these tagging data will be incorporated into stock assessments and management plans.

Host: Paul Anderson, Maine Sea Grant

Moderator: Laura Singer, Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Panel: Dr. Shelley Tallack, Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Dr. Steven Cadrin, School for Marine Science and Technology
Tom Rudolph, Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Assn.

10:30 am Pen Bay Room

Downeast Initiative: An Update

The goal of the Downeast Initiative is to (1) provide Downeast communities with access to the groundfish resources in the eastern Gulf of Maine and (2) develop a pilot program employing finer scale, local co-management. In the last year the Initiative has built the foundation for a revised approach. This seminar is intended as an informal update on the activities of last year.

Host: Jim Wilson, School of Marine Sciences

Moderator:

Panel:

10:30 am North Samoset Room

The Food Guys: The Pouch Principle

Well they're back! Welcome back those famous 'Food Guys' who entertain with their comic monologue, while helping you learn how to get the most out of your seafood dollar. This year, in response to critiques from last year, we present "The Pocket Principle." This year's seminar will cover the finer points of how to create easy, delicious, inexpensive meals for your family, using little or no oil, and virtually NO cleanup, using parchment paper or aluminum foil pouches. We'll be making flavorful fish/seafood based meals from several different cuisines, all that taste GREAT! As always, come to learn, come to have fun, and come to enjoy some great food. Hope to see you all there!

Host: Kathleen Billings, Stonington Fisheries Alliance

Panel: Jim Leverso and Mike Young

10:30 am Rockland Room

Shrimp: What Happened to the '05 & '06 Season and Why?

A generalized discussion with the audience regarding the '05 - '06 season covering the very delicate market situation, the outlook for next year. Discussion will address both the availability of product and what, if anything, can be done about the market.

Host: Rick Albertson, IFISH

Moderator: Proctor Wells, IFISH

Panel: Russell Libby
Jim Cook
Leila Percy
Dennis Damon
Craig Pendleton, Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance
Maggie Hunter

10:30 am Rockport Room

How Does DMR Evaluate an Aquaculture Lease Application?

Many fishermen have wondered aloud how DMR goes about deciding whether an aquaculture lease application should be approved. DMR aquaculture staff will describe the criteria that are used and how information is gathered and evaluated. Real-life examples will be used, and questions from the audience are welcome.

Host: David Etnier, Maine DMR

Moderator: Samantha Horn Olsen, Maine DMR

Panel: Jon Lewis, Maine DMR
Mary Costigan, Maine DMR

10:30 am Camden Room

USA Atlantic Herring Tagging Study – An Overview of Tag Return Data Collected Since 2003

This seminar reviews a study in which almost 75,000 Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*) were tagged in the Gulf of Maine Georges Bank and Southern New England between 2003 and 2005. This study was conducted in order to collect information on the current stock intermixing and migration patterns for the US Atlantic herring coastal complex throughout its range. Two hundred twelve fish were recovered from the five defined spatial strata during the first three years of this ongoing study. A significant portion of these recoveries represented long-distance migrations and extended times at large. Tag return data suggest seasonal migrations from Southern New England eastward to the Gulf of Maine, and possible intermixing of US components in the Winter fishery.

DRAWING FOR HERRING TAG LOTTERY – 3 GREAT PRIZES AWARDED!

One \$1,000, Two \$500

Host: Mary Beth Tooley, East Coast Pelagic Association

Moderator: Mary Beth Tooley, East Coast Pelagic Association

Panel: Kohl Kanwit, Maine DMR
Karen Bolles
Steve Cadrin

1:00 pm Pen Bay Room

Community Based Fisheries

We've been talking about grassroots fisheries management on a local level now for some time...Now meet some of those who have really taken that to the next level. Zone C lobster hatchery funded and managed on a local level...Scallop projects with a local marketing strategy and managed locally by fishermen and community members. Midcoast Maine projects highlighted also.

Host: Kathleen Billings, Stonington Fisheries Alliance

Moderator: Ted Ames, Zone C Lobster Fishery

Panel:

1:00 pm North Samoset Room

Experimental Aquaculture Lease

A how-to seminar on the do's and do nots of applying for an aquaculture lease. The basics of the leasing process will be explained. Common mistakes made by applicants will be discussed. The key ingredients for a successful application will be summarized.

Host: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Assn.

Moderator: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Assn.

Panel: Samantha Horne Olsen, Maine DMR
Dr. Chris Davis, Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center

1:00 pm Rockland Room

GoMOOS

This seminar will provide an update on GoMOOS activities with a focus on our efforts to bring together various data streams to provide information that is useful to fishermen and fisheries managers. Additionally, this seminar will include presentations on specific uses

of GoMOOS data by the National Weather Service (NWS) and by scientists developing prediction systems for herring stocks and right whale births.

Host: Patrice McCarron, Maine Lobstermen's Association

Moderator: Tom Shyka, GoMOOS

Panel: John Cannon, National Weather Service
Andy Pershing, Cornell University

1:00 pm Rockport Room

Urchins

Discuss suggestions from Commissioner's panel on Urchin Management.

Host: Kristan Porter, F/V Whitney & Ashley

Moderator: Kristan Porter, F/V Whitney & Ashley

Panel: Dean Norris
William Smith, Sea Urchin Zone Council
Jim Wadsworth, Buyer
Robert Russell, Maine DMR

1:00 pm Camden Room

Herring Management Under NEFMC Amendment 1 and ASFMC Amendment 2

Significant changes are underway in herring management under joint NEFMC, ASMFC FMPs after years of discussion and debate. Most significant are limited access and a midwater trawl / pair trawl seasonal prohibition in Area 1A. Various interests are trying to figure out what it will mean to folks in the herring industry or those who rely on herring for bait or food production. It is important for fishermen to understand what changes have been made. The panelists in this session will describe the changes and give their views on issues that will need to be watched and addressed in the next few years.

Host: David Etnier, Maine DMR

Moderator: Commissioner George LaPointe, Maine DMR

Panel: Mary Beth Tooley, East Coast Pelagic
Jennie Bichrest, Purse Line Bait
David Cousens, MLA
Rep. Jeff Kaelin, F/V Providian
Al West, Stinson Seafood

2:45 pm Pen Bay Room

EcoSystem Based Management

Host: Jim Wilson, School of Marine Sciences

Moderator:

Panel:

2:45 pm North Samoset Room

Financing Aquaculture Operations

The basic methods of financing aquaculture business will be outlined. A summary of a number of different financing programs available will be given. Representatives from several Maine financing institutions will explain the programs they have available.

Host: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Assn.

Moderator: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Association

Panel: Hugh Cowperthwaite, Coastal Enterprises Inc.
Meriby Sweet, Center Director for Maine Small Business and Technology
Development Center
Farm Credit of Maine

2:45 pm Rockland Room

Watch Out for Imposter Lobsters! Protecting the "Maine Lobster" Brand

Consumers prefer lobster from Maine, and the "Maine Lobster" brand is a tremendously valuable asset in marketing and selling. Unfortunately, the brand is currently unprotected

by trademark or legal definition, leaving “Maine Lobster” free for use by other lobster/seafood products.

This interactive presentation will consider how to leverage consumer preference into increased profitability by protecting and certifying the brand, and communicating the “imposter” message to the marketplace.

Host: Patrice McCarron, MLA

Moderator: Kristan Millar, Maine Lobster Promotion Council

2:45 pm Rockport Room

eMOLT

Jim Manning will present his annual update on the "Environmental Monitors on Lobster Traps" project. Having now five years of hourly bottom temperature records from dozens of locations around the Gulf of Maine, we can start to quantify just how cold (or warm in some times and places) it has got in the past year and why. He will also present more SMCC student-made, lobstermen-deployed, satellite-tracked drifter trajectories and discuss their role in tracking the harmful algal bloom event in 2005.

These units have now collectively traveled over 50,000 kilometers of ocean and have taken some wild meanderings! Participants in the eMOLT project are especially encouraged to attend.

Host: Clare Grindal, Downeast Lobstermen’s Association

Moderator: Jim Manning

Panel:

2:45 pm Camden Room

Fleet Vision Project

Now that the Fleet Visioning Project is complete, NAMA will present the Vision statements, give a brief explanation of how we got there and engage the audience in next steps and discussion of how to blend Vision statements, biological goals and capacity as it applies to the groundfishing community.

Host: Rick Albertson, IFISH

Moderator: Jen Levin, Fleet Vision Project

Panel: Craig Pendleton, NAMA