



SUMMARY OF THE BOTTOM LINE PROJECT PHASE I – II - III AS OF 8/21/09

WHERE AND WHEN WERE THE GROUNDLINE EXCHANGES IN MAINE?

Location	Dates	#Lobstermen (some more than once)	#Lbs Poly Collected	\$ Voucher Amount
Phase I				
Scarborough	May 21-25, 2007	123	137,587	192,122
Phase II				
Ellsworth	March 25-27, 2008	100	93,700	131,179
Rockland	April 14-17, 2008 (includes Vinalhaven)	176	181,052	253,491
Scarborough	May 20-22, 2008	162	178,933	249,396
Ellsworth	August 12-14, 2008	168	202,867	284,012
Rockland	September 9-11, 2008	185	196,960	275,858
Phase III				
Ellsworth	March 23-24, 2009	148	175,849	246,198
Rockland	March 26-27, 2009	148	153,248	214,552
Totals	8 exchanges	1,210	1,320,196	\$1,846,808

HOW MUCH AND WHAT TYPE OF ROPE CAN A LOBSTERMAN TURN IN?

As this is a voluntary groundline exchange program, commercially-licensed Maine lobstermen may choose to turn in as much or as little of their USED poly tailers and groundlines as they like, at any or all of the collections. No new poly is accepted. No buoy lines/endlines are accepted. (We cannot always know if they are legitimate, but we do all we can to make the rules known.) No loose rope is accepted – it must be coiled and manageable.

If a lobsterman estimates much more than a ton of rope, we ensure that he understands this program is for tailers/groundlines only, and that he can still use poly on the endline (buoy line). A federally-permitted, year-round lobsterman might legitimately have over 4000 pounds of groundlines, but a seasonal near-shore lobsterman would have much less -- we check to be sure their estimate is reasonable based on their fishing situation and have developed a rope-poundage matrix for internal use in making this assessment. Polysteel-type float rope (a co-extrusion of polypropylene and polyethylene) is significantly heavier than straight polypropylene rope and that is also taken into account.

HOW ARE THE VOUCHERS REDEEMED?

Lobstermen are given vouchers worth \$1.40 per pound of poly they have brought in for exchange. The voucher must be used at a registered rope dealer or distributor within a 90-day timeframe after the poly is collected. (Originally we allowed only 60 days, but some lobstermen found it difficult to identify and/or locate appropriate sink rope within that timeframe so we extended the window.)

No financial match is required by either the lobsterman or the rope dealer, as it is understood that the voucher will not cover the full cost of replacement sink rope. Lobstermen are encouraged to contact participating dealers as soon as possible to ensure that they will have the rope in stock. If a dealer is unable to physically provide the sink rope during that window, arrangements can be made between lobsterman and dealer to pay for the rope using the voucher and take delivery at a later date.

A list of participating rope dealers is given to lobstermen at the collection site, and can also be found on the GOMLF website. Likewise, a list of voucher recipients is submitted to each participating rope dealer immediately following each exchange, to safeguard against voucher abuse.

In order to be part of the program, rope dealers agree to adhere to certain rules regarding voucher use, including selling no sink rope with a diameter smaller than 1 1/32" or 9-thread (because it would be unlikely that sink rope that small would be used for groundline), accepting no sink-rope exchanges after the voucher period ends, and billing GOMLF within 60 days of the final collection date.

WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL THAT ROPE?

Initially, all the collected float rope was sold to a recycling company from Massachusetts, Conigliaro Industries, who processed the rope and brokered it for use in the manufacture of low-grade plastic products, like plant trays. Beginning in March 2009, the rope has been contracted for use in manufacturing hand-made doormats. A small amount (10,000 lbs) has been donated to an artist for use in making a huge rope "sculpture", commissioned by the [Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art](#), at an exhibit scheduled to open in April 2010.