

Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation

A nonprofit organization working to support a healthy lobster fishery and sustainable resources in the Gulf of Maine. Lobster Lines is our tri-annual newsletter presenting our projects, programs and partners during this time. We thank you for your ongoing support of GOMLF and our programs.

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Lobster

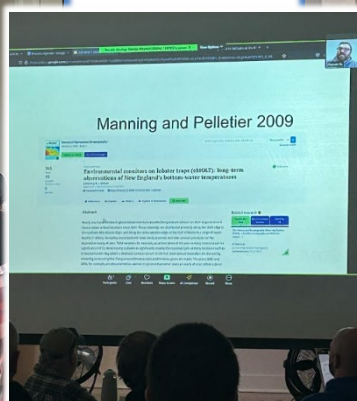
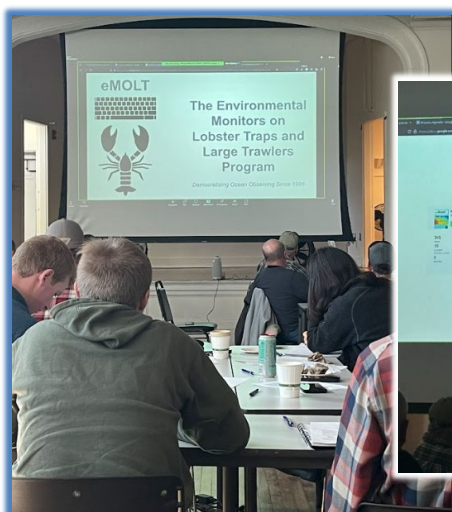
ISSUE 8

GOMLF NEWSLETTER
Spring 2025

e-MOLT Conference in Ellsworth



On April 17, 2025 a monumental eMOLT Workshop was hosted in Ellsworth. This conference gathered with the purpose of bringing fishermen together to help inform data visualization tools and needs across the coast. NERACOOS was a fundamental partner and key organizer that made this event happen. We were grateful to be funded by the Maine Sea Grant. Organizations including The Lobster Institute, Ocean Data Network (ODN), Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries and Maine Department of Marine Resources were also in the room supporting the voice of fishermen. This conference assisted with promoting how fishery needs and industry-independent data can be utilized in collaboration.



PARTNERSHIPS

Gear Grab
geargrab.org

eMOLT
emolt.org

Student Drifters
studentdrifters.org

Contact Emma
to report a
gear ball or
derelict gear
you are
interested in
seeing
removed from
the Maine
coastline.

emma@gomlf.org
(207) 669 - 2814

What Can I do to get involved?

Sponsor a student
drifter

Make a donation
on our website

Follow us on
Facebook and
Instagram

GOMLF
1 High Street, Suite 5
Kennebunk, ME
(207) 205 - 8088

Spring Removal Initiatives: Trap Grappling and Gear Balls



We have been busy this spring in the realm of marine debris recovery. We executed 5 on-the-water extraction days with the cooperation of 5 vessels and 12 fishermen (Captains and crew). Trap grappling occurred out of Cundy's Harbor and Harpswell. We landed these traps at the Portland Fish Exchange (PFEX) where they were processed for recycling and disposal. Two gear balls were recovered off Portland Harbor and landed at PFEX.

- 2 large (> 2 tons) gear balls
- 1 wench returned to wharf owner (Phippsburg) lost during 2024 storms
- 35 Fishable traps returned to owners
- 168 Traps recovered
- 3 mini (< 2 tons) gear balls
- 9 legal lobsters returned to be caught
- 60+ undersized lobsters returned
- 1 oversized egger notched thrown back
- 1 shrimp pot

Debris Total: 6.61 Tons

GGGI Best Practices for the Management of Fishing Gear Conference in Vancouver, BC, Canada



GOMLF Gear Grab team led by our Executive Director Erin Pelletier and fishermen Jim Buxton, Jim Barclay and Bob Hersey represented the US at the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) Best Practices for the Management of Fishing Gear workshop in Vancouver, BC. Erin presented to attendees from Mexico and Canada on our gear recovery work in Maine. Thank you to GGGI for hosting. Phenomenal presentation given by Erin Pelletier inspired international dialogue.

Voluntary Gear Disposal Event: Portland



On May 5th, 6th, and 7th we hosted a Voluntary Derelict Gear Disposal Day off the Portland Fish Exchange. We were honored to receive traps and gear from Portland, Chebeague Island, Harpswell and Boothbay!

Salvage:

- approximately 100 traps/wire for reuse by local fishermen or makers.
- Rope salvaged for reuse and artistry by folks at WharfWarp in Freeport
- 1 full palette of bricks repurposed by local fishermen, gardeners and landscapers

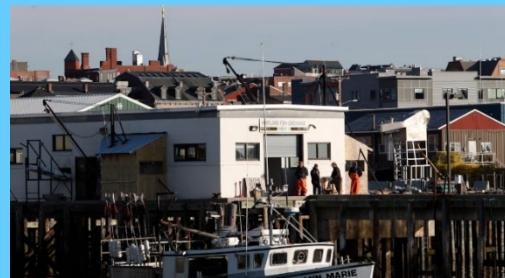
Recycled:

- 5.12 tons of traps and metal fishing wire recycled

Disposal for energy:

- 2.91 tons of unsalvageable debris sent to be turned into energy

GOMLF Appreciation: Portland Fish Exchange (PFEX) and Look Lobster



We are grateful for all the support and resources from the Portland Fish Exchange (PFEX) and Look Lobster in Portland for their engagement with our initiatives, shared space on the waterfront and the time taken to help make these projects a reality in the Portland area.

Gear Team and Gear Grab: Successful Partnerships, Broad Reaching Success

Our Gear Team is comprised of 6 New England organizations including GOMLF, Center for Coastal Studies, The Rozalia Project, Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation, Oceanswide and Net Your Problem. Our partnership has enabled us to develop efficient mechanisms of collection, recycling and outreach. We have continued to provide community contacts and on the ground support for our partners. Our New England Gear Team Gear Extraction and Response Team is the first of its kind and doing work along the coast to bolster our collective engagement and results!

Student Drifters Updates

Drifter Tracks Ended: One of the SMCC “Brian” drifters with plywood sails landed on the rocks just south of Kennbunkport on May 4th, was recovered, and is being refurbished.

Drifters Underway: The other SMCC “Brian” drifter, deployed back in April, was headed to Georges Bank, but, in the last few days, appears to be tracking more northward towards Nova Scotia. After being deployed mid-March and taking several oscillations in an eddy, the Canterbury School of Florida drifter has finally made its way into the Florida Straits just south of Key West and may soon be headed north.

Drifters Planned: NOAA’s Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab has 5 units ready to go into Lake Michigan. Three units delivered to NOAA’s NEFSC who will be tracking bluefin tuna larvae in July. Salem Sound Coast Watch (SSCW) plans one off the North Shore this Summer.

Thank you to our Funders

As a nonprofit we are entirely funded by grants and donations. We are grateful to continue to receive funds from our following partners. Their support allows us to continue to perform our work.



Additional Events Attended

- Massachusetts Fishermen’s Weekend
- Sustainable Seafood Showcase at the Seafood Expo in Boston
- Maine Fisherman’s Forum
- Downeast On-Demand Gear Demos

Thank you for reading Lobster Lines!