

Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation

A nonprofit organization
working to support a
healthy lobster fishery and
sustainable resources in the
Gulf of Maine.

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GULF OF MAINE LOBSTER FOUNDATION

Lobster Lines

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GOMLF Newsletter

WINTER 2013

Welcome Gear Grab: *No lobsterman worth his salt would choose to lose his gear...*

In the spring of 2012 Gear Grab was introduced. GOMLF had received two federal grants, one from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Fishing for Energy Fund (F4E) and the other from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program, to continue their derelict fishing gear projects initiated in 2010. Building upon their initial success, GOMLF is pleased to present Gear Grab, a three-prong initiative designed to inform, involve and improve the lives of the fishermen and the communities in which they live along the coast of Maine.

The Gear Grab project includes, at-sea recovery, voluntary disposal days, and community shoreline cleanups. The at-sea recoveries incorporate grappling to recover traps that get lost when buoys are buffeted by storms, cut loose by the propellers of passing boats, snagged and dragged to unknown locations by sailboats, trawlers, ferries, or from breakage of their groundlines.

The voluntary disposal days are an opportunity for fishermen to dispose of used or unwanted fishing gear and encourages proper disposal and eliminates disposal costs incurred at transfer stations. GOMLF contracts with Corcoran Environmental Services to send wire traps to Schnitzer Steel for recycling and all other fishing gear to Eco-Maine on Portland, which incinerates the waste for energy. Many fishermen are appreciative



of these events. For community shoreline cleanups GOMLF has coordinated with local fishermen and their families, schools, town government, and businesses to educate the general public about the challenges of preventing and mitigating derelict fishing gear and the impact of debris on marine habitat. We would like to expand upon these community cleanups and voluntary disposal days. Please let us know if your area may be interested.

Voluntary Disposal Day:
5.8 tons of non-steel and
10.1 tons of metal were
collected on this day!

At-sea recovery: Salvageable traps were stacked neatly in order. Traps with identification, their owners were contacted. Traps remain in this area to give fishermen adequate amount of time to retrieve their traps.

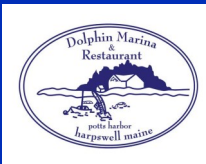


Community Shoreline Cleanup day in Harpswell was fun for the Pelletier sisters!



Gear Grab was a huge success in 2012 ! Thank you to our supporters to make it happen!

All fishermen participation



Lobster Lines is directly distributed to over 1750 people in the lobster industry

Executive Director Presents on Marine Debris

In December 2012, Executive Director Erin Pelletier traveled to Miami, to present at the World Society of the Protection of Animals (WSPA) Marine Debris Conference. This conference was the first of its kind held in the United States. Organizations from around the world such as Chile, Australia, Norway, South Africa, and Korea shared their successes and challenges on the removal and reduction of marine debris. Erin presented on removal of derelict fishing gear in the Gulf of Maine and how industry involvement plays a huge role in successful projects in order to engage support for future projects.



2012 New England Derelict Fishing Gear Workshop

A meeting held in Portland, Maine earlier last year that brought together participants from government, environmental organizations and industry to discuss marine debris in New England.

In this this meeting, Fishing for Energy partners convened a roundtable, hosting representatives from all four coastal states to discuss gaps and barriers to managing derelict fishing gear in New England. During the roundtable, participants discussed adaptations and new solutions to reduce the loss of gear, address unintended restrictions of voluntary derelict gear removal from old laws and the need for research to better understand the impacts of derelict gear on the species, habitats, and industries of this region. Initiatives for future funding projects identified from outcomes of this meeting and

discussion are:

- At sea derelict fishing gear removal;
- Gear density assessment;
- Economic and resource impact assessment.

GOMLF continues to work with industry in order to better understand these topics through active projects and outreach.



Mangled fishing gear that can get tangled up with active fishing gear.

For the latest updates, find us on



Facebook
"friend" the Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation and see what we are up to now!

We will be headed downeast this year for two more at-sea recoveries and community shoreline cleanups. If you are interested in being involved please contact us if you would like either one of these events in your area. Contact us at 207-985-8088