

“The Ocean and Humans are Inextricably Interconnected”

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Mission Statement: Island Institute is a non-profit organization that serves as a voice for the balanced future of the islands and waters of the Gulf of Maine. We are guided by an island ethic that recognizes the strength and fragility of Maine's island communities and the finite nature of the Gulf of Maine ecosystems. Along the Maine Coast, the Island Institute seeks to:


- Support the islands' year-round communities;
- Conserve Maine's island and marine biodiversity for future generations;
- Develop model solutions that balance the needs of the coast's cultural and natural communities;
- Provide opportunities for discussion over responsible use of finite resources, and provide information to assist competing interests in arriving at constructive solutions.

Maine's 15 Year-Round Island Communities

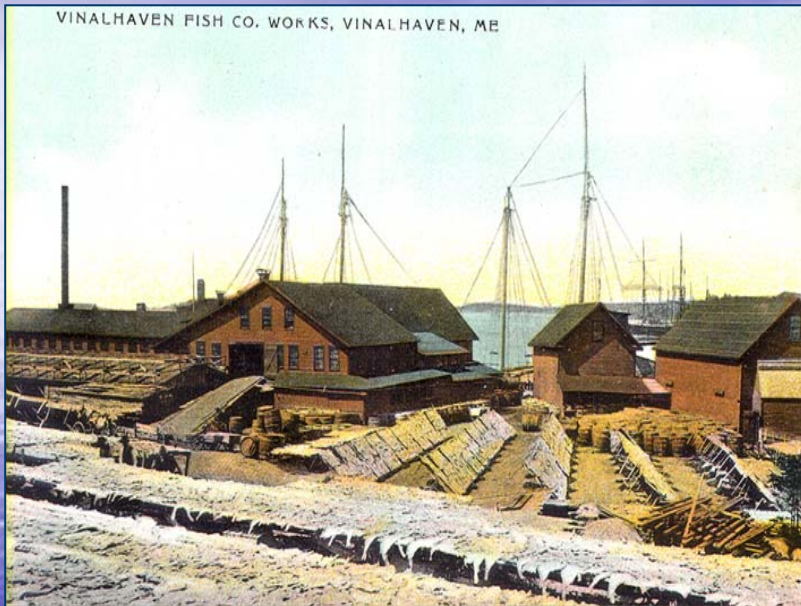


“The ocean provides jobs and supports the economy”

Working Waterfronts

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- The coast of Maine is **5,300** miles in length, only **25** miles, less than **1%** of the coast is devoted to commercial fishing.
 - Those **25** miles are within **149** coastal towns which support **39,000** commercial fishing jobs and contribute over **\$750 million** in state revenue.

“The ocean is an important element in the heritage of many cultures”



Fishing embodies both the heritage and the reality of the Maine coast, but due to economic development pressure our fishing communities are being squeezed out of the coastal waterfronts. Working Waterfronts provide the doorway to the office which is the ocean for Fishermen.

“Everyone is responsible for caring for the ocean.
The ocean sustains life on Earth and humans must live in ways that sustain the
ocean.

**Individual and collective actions are needed to effectively manage
ocean resources for all.”**





LobsterTales

An Educational Project Linking Maine's Lobster Communities to the World

[HOME](#) [MAPS](#) [LOBSTERMEN](#) [COMMUNITIES](#) [SCHOOLS](#) [ABOUT](#)

WHO CAUGHT ME?

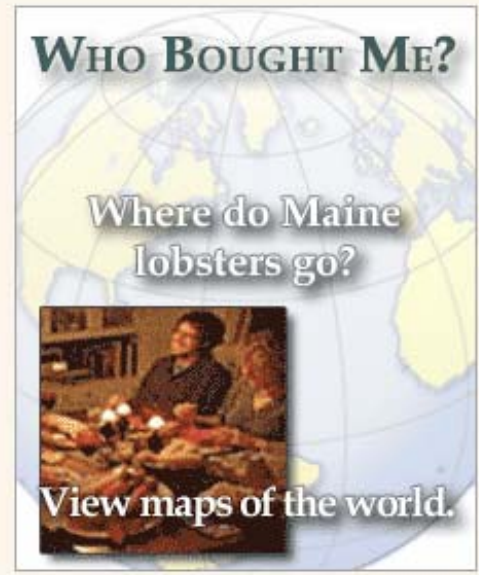


Find a Band?
Enter it Here

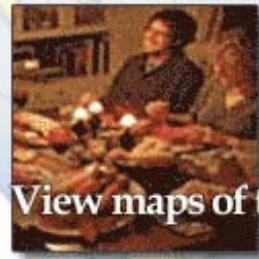
See how
it works...

Learn where your lobster came from
See images and read stories of Maine
Put yourself on the map

WHO BOUGHT ME?



Where do Maine
lobsters go?



View maps of the world.

Read stories from lobster-buyers
Track the lobsters of a single
fisherman or a community

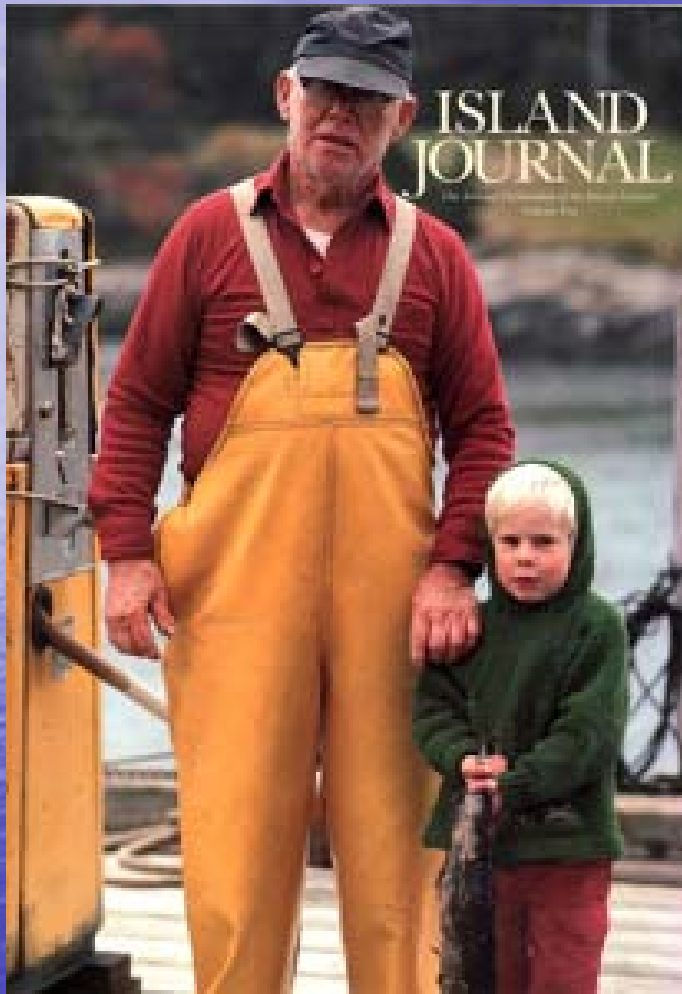
Maine Lobster Fishing supports small communities and contributes to a sustainable ecosystem.

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Community and School Sampling Programs




Publications



THE WORKING WEB EDITION
WATERFRONT

FISHING
Lobster Shell Disease - Rhode Island, L.I. Sound may be a wakeup call for Maine
by JENNIFER LITTERAL

Lobster Shell Disease has been the buzzword up and down the East Coast these past five years, since its debut off Rhode Island and in Long Island Sound in 1999.



Before that time, Long Island Sound was the nation's third largest lobster producer. The mysterious die-off of lobsters decimated New York's \$100 million industry.

Yellow Lobster with shell disease
photo: NE Aquarium

The American Lobster is the most economically important single-species fishery in the Gulf of Maine, and a collapse of the lobster fishery here would be catastrophic. If we assume that Maine's lobster (or "bug" as it's often referred to by fishermen) is immune, are we only in denial? How far north could lobster shell disease spread?

'Island Journal' annual publication, 'Working Waterfront' monthly newspaper with 50,000 readers



Convening Stakeholders





CREST

Community for Rural Education Stewardship and Technology





INTERGRATION

