

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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www.geargrab.org

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GULF OF MAINE LOBSTER FOUNDATION

Lobster Lines

ISSUE 7

GOMLF Newsletter

SPRING 2024

Successful Gear Ball Retrieval May - June 2024

GOMLF models gear recovery through many diverse initiatives including at-sea recoveries and coordination of voluntary disposal mechanisms. In Spring 2024, we focused our efforts on removal of several gear balls out of the Casco Bay with help from lobstermen Jim Buxton and stern man Victor out of Portland alongside Bob Hersey and stern man Carl out of Harpswell.

Central to our success with gear ball recovery is the knowledge provided to us by local lobstermen. These were identified with special assistance from lobsterman Stu Jones out of Portland.

Safety, procedure and logistical success are of paramount concern to GOMLF. Our local partnerships with divers like Jim Buxton and Bob Hersey, The Portland Fish Exchange, crane companies and disposal companies make our work possible.



Community Cleanup



GOMLF teamed up with Colby College to assist in a gear cleanup on Allen Island. Over 50 volunteers, students, alumni and friends of the college joined us to clean up the shore lines from the gear from the winter storms.



Spring 2024 Numbers

- 3 = Gear Balls Removed
- 3 = Gear Balls to be removed by end of 2024
- 15 = Tons of debris collected
- 5 = Fishermen collaborators

Gear ball recovery grants are entirely grant funded and lobstermen led!

We are aiming to move to target gear ball recoveries across 5 main ports by 2026.

Up and Coming... What can I do to get involved?

Sponsor a student drifter

Make a donation at gomlf.org

Look out for new merch!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Contact us to report derelict gear, sunken abandoned vessels and areas for grappling

Lobsterman interested in testing or learning more about on-demand gear? Send us an email or give us a call.

Reach out to

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(207) 669—2814



Lobsterman Jim Buxton Presents on Behalf of GOMLF at International Conference

GOMLF was invited to the Global Ghost Gear Initiative Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. Attending alongside GOMLF staff was lobsterman Jim Buxton, out of Portland. Jim spoke to the process of gear ball retrieval in Maine to a large group of fishers, policy makers, environmental groups, and scientists.



Future Projects

Sunken Vessel Recovery

Gear Grab: Ongoing at-sea recovery efforts

eMOLT: Ongoing recruitment and monitoring

Media: Catch us in an episode of *Claws on the Weather Channel!* Coming January 2025

Student Drifters at Women's STEM Camp

Smart Buoy Connection

Thanks to Our Collaborators



Take Action!

Reach out!

We are hoping to expand our reach in Maine and may be able to sponsor events to clean up the ocean and support the working waterfront, please call us at 207-985-8088 to connect more.

Get Involved!

Fishermen should reach out to emmagomlf@gmail.com

Stay Informed!

For latest updates, events and news find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

Check out our Website!

WWW.GOMLF.ORG