



New England Fishermen's Stewardship Association

January & February 2026

## NEFSA's Priorities for 2026: A Stronger Voice for Commercial Fishing

By Dustin Delano, Chairman & Chief Strategist

As we kick off 2026, NEFSA is entering the new year with renewed energy, a strengthened leadership team, and a clear focus on defending the future of commercial fishing across New England and beyond.

First and foremost, I want to recognize how excited I am about the impact our new leadership team will make. Bonnie Brady and Jason Joyce are stepping into key roles at a time when fishermen need strong, relentless representation more than ever. Their experience, commitment, and willingness to fight for working waterfronts will be critical as we take on the challenges ahead.

NEFSA's expansion into our nation's capital is already proving to be one of the most important decisions we've made in years. Over the last several months, I've had the opportunity to build relationships with fisheries advocates from around the country, lobbyists, scientists, politicians, congressional staffers, and other individuals who have major influence on public policy—policy that directly affects the lives and livelihoods of our fishermen.

As a lobsterman from Maine, I'll be the first to admit that I've often been far out of my element navigating Washington, D.C. But I've been encouraged by what I've seen so far: people in our nation's capital are not only willing to listen—they're already reaching out for NEFSA's input on numerous issues. That tells me our voice is being recognized as one that matters. And that recognition will help us fight harder, smarter, and more effectively in 2026.



### Our Focus for 2026: Protecting Fishermen, Jobs, and Our Ocean

This year, NEFSA will continue advocating for the best interests of commercial fishermen through direct engagement, strategic partnerships, and aggressive defense of our industry against threats that are growing by the day.

Below are NEFSA's top priorities heading into the new year.

### 1) Opposing Offshore Wind: Protecting Our Ocean, Our Industry, and National Security

One of our most urgent priorities remains opposition to offshore wind—especially at this crucial moment, when the current Administration is working to put a stop to what could become one of the largest industrial disruptions of our ocean ecosystem in modern history.

Offshore wind development is not “green” when it comes at the cost of destroying habitat, disrupting marine life, displacing fishermen from historic fishing grounds, and creating permanent safety hazards offshore. These projects threaten to push fishermen toward extinction—not through natural decline, but through deliberate policy decisions and foreign-backed industrial expansion that is being subsidized with YOUR tax dollars.

We will continue to fight to:

- Stop the massive industrialization of our ocean environment
- Protect fishermen from forced displacement and economic collapse
- Expose the reality of who benefits from these projects—and who pays the price
- Defend the national security of all Americans, which will be put at risk once these offshore structures are built and permanently embedded into critical coastal waters

NEFSA will not stand by while our fishing grounds become industrial zones.

### 2) Fixing Groundfish: Better Science, Better Data, and Real Conversations About the Future

Our groundfish industry is in complete turmoil. Fishermen are being crushed by uncertainty, unstable quotas, and a system that continues to fail the very people it was supposed to support.

If we want to rebuild the groundfish industry, it starts with better assessments—and the first way to get there is expanding cooperative research opportunities. We need more long-term, consistent, industry-driven science so that real-world data can be incorporated into future stock assessments. That means research programs that don't disappear after a single funding cycle. It means building something that lasts.

At the same time, we must be honest about the current structure of the system. In my personal opinion, the catch share model is failing all of our fishermen—some more than others—but the reality is that there are no longer any winners here. We are watching the slow erosion of opportunity, access, and profitability.

It's time for real conversations within the industry about what comes next, and NEFSA will be part of that push. We cannot keep pretending that the status quo is sustainable.

### **3) Boosting American-Caught Seafood: Fair Markets and Equal Treatment for Fishermen**

NEFSA will also be pushing hard in 2026 for policies and public messaging that strengthen the market for American-caught seafood.

Right now, our fishermen are being priced out of the marketplace by cheap foreign product—often farm-raised—being brought into our country under standards that are far below what American vessels and companies are required to follow.

This is not fair competition. It is economic sabotage.

Our seafood producers are held to strict regulations, costly compliance requirements, and some of the most demanding standards in the world—yet they're forced to compete against imports that often don't meet those same expectations.

That's why NEFSA will be advocating for:

- Stronger promotion of domestic seafood
- Fair labeling and transparency so consumers know what they're buying
- Policies that stop undermining American harvesters
- A national mindset shift: seafood is food security

And most importantly, we need to start proving something that should already be obvious:

**America's fishermen deserve to be treated the same as America's farmers.**

We are a major food source. We are essential to the economy and national resilience. We deserve similar protections, support, and respect that the agriculture industry receives.

### **4) Defending Forage Fisheries: Fighting Activist Takeovers Disguised as "Conservation"**

We also must stay alert to a growing and coordinated effort to ban or severely restrict the commercial harvesting of menhaden, mackerel, herring, squid, and other so-called "forage fish."

These campaigns are often pushed under the banner of conservation for species such as striped bass, seabirds, and osprey—but often they are driven by activist groups with an agenda that has nothing to do with balanced management.

We've seen it before: groups acting as wolves in sheep's clothing, embedding themselves in decision-making circles, attempting to gain power and influence while targeting fishermen as the villain.

NEFSA will do everything in our power to fight back against these efforts and defend the fishermen and communities that rely on these fisheries.

As a former lobsterman and menhaden seiner, I understand first-hand what is at stake:

- Lobstermen need access to locally caught bait
- Our hundreds of small-boat seiners across New England need access to the increasing amount of fish showing up on our shores
- Our coastal communities need working waterfronts—not policy-driven shutdowns

### **5) Preparing for the Next Wave of Right Whale Regulations**

NEFSA is also staying focused on the long-term threat posed by right whale regulations.

The current reprieve is set to expire at the end of 2028, and we are working diligently on a strategy that keeps lobstermen fishing—without more closures, and without forcing the widespread adoption of ropeless gear.

Ropeless gear is often marketed as a simple solution, but fishermen know the truth:

It is expensive.  
It is dangerous.  
And it will put more fishermen out of business.

We are also encouraged by what we are seeing on the water. This winter calving season has already seen the addition of **22 new right whale calves**, and the population appears to be moving in a positive direction following the unusual mortality event just a few years ago.

That matters, and it must be part of the conversation going forward. We cannot accept endless restrictions that ignore real-world progress and punish the very fishermen who have already sacrificed the most.

### **A Strong Team, A Clear Mission, and "Boots on the Ground" in New England**

While my availability at NEFSA will be strained for the time being as I fulfill my role with NOAA leadership as the first-ever "Fishermen in Residence," I will still do my best to stay connected, communicate with members, and remain available for conversations and concerns whenever possible.



The good news is that NEFSA's work will not slow down.

Jason has stepped up as our Director of Advocacy and will serve as my eyes and ears on the ground, maintaining NEFSA's "boots on the ground" strategy throughout New England—making sure fishermen are heard where it counts.

Bonnie will be representing NEFSA at council meetings and taking over the groundfish portfolio, which is a daunting responsibility due to the wide variety of species, management complexities, and constant pressure being applied to the fleet.

I'm grateful for both of them, and I'm confident in what this team can accomplish.

### **Closing: Preserving Our Heritage and Protecting the Next Generation**

We have a lot of work ahead of us. But we also have something powerful: a growing organization, a committed leadership team, and members who understand what's at stake.

At the end of the day, this fight is about preserving our heritage—and making sure a young child's dream of becoming a fisherman can still be a reality in America.

As always, I want to express my utmost gratitude to everyone who supports NEFSA through membership and donations. Your support makes our advocacy possible, and we hope you continue to stand with us in 2026.

If you have friends, family, or fellow fishermen who aren't members yet, encourage them to learn more about NEFSA and help support one of the largest and leading fishing advocacy platforms on the East Coast.

We're here. We're working. And we're not backing down.

### **Coastal Maine Reporting Gift Card Winners**

All NEFSA renewals and new members received in November and December 2025 were automatically entered in a drawing to win one of two \$350- gift certificates for electronic reporting services from NEFSA Business Member, Coastal Maine Reporting. The two winners are Ladd Olson of Vinalhaven, and Bill Clemons of Harpswell! Thank you, Sue Kelley and Alice Mayberry of Coastal Maine Reporting, for donating the gift cards for services at CMR and for supporting NEFSA.

Coastal Maine Reporting is an electronic reporting option for State of Maine commercial fishermen. Services Offered include State reporting using LEEDS. Federal reporting using VESL app, Commercial Harvester Reporting for: Lobster, Halibut, Scallop, Sea Urchin, Elvers, Seaweed, Eel Pot, Sea Cucumbers, Aquaculture, Pelagic, Pelagic w/Herring, Menhaden, Dealer reports, License renewal, & Updating Vessel information with DMR.



*Photo by Jay Fleming*

### **Remembering Ginny Oliver**

Virginia "Ginny" Oliver was a lifelong resident of Rockland, mother, grandmother and lobsterwoman, whose claim to fame came late in life when she gained worldwide attention for being the oldest active, licensed lobsterman, passed away at the age of 105 on January 20, 2026. Ginny lobstered for 9 decades, starting out alongside her father at the age of 8, then her husband, and later her children (3 of Ginny's four children lobster) most recently fishing with her son Max three days a week out of Penobscot Bay on the F/V Virginia, until she was over 100 years old.

Two children's books, both titled *The Lobster Lady*, one written by Barbara Walsh and one written by Alexandra S.D. Hinrichs features Ginny and a day in her life lobstering- showing how to haul, measure, and band lobsters. While working, she reminisces about her childhood on the Maine coast, her family's island home (the Neck), and how industry has changed over nearly a century.

Know for her dry Maine humor, strong work ethic, and cheerful outlook, Ginny is quoted as saying, "You grow old when you stop doing what you love. I'm not going to retire; I'm going to do this till I die." True to her words, Ginny did just that.

Maine Lobster Festival issued this statement upon learning of her passing "Virginia was more than a local icon; she was a living piece of Maine's maritime history. Her no-nonsense work ethic, sparkling blue eyes and enduring sense of purpose reminded us of what it means to live with passion and pride, to keep showing up, decade after decade, for the work that defines you."

# NEFSA Welcomes New Policy and Advocacy Leaders

NEFSA is proud to announce the appointment of Bonnie Brady as Policy Director and Jason Joyce as Director of Advocacy, two key leadership roles that will strengthen NEFSA's efforts to support fishermen and coastal communities. Bonnie and Jason bring decades of experience advocating for fishermen and the communities they serve. Their leadership will be instrumental in shaping NEFSA's approach to critical issues facing the fishing industry – from sustainable practices and regulations to the impacts of off-shore wind development – ensuring that the voices of fishermen remain at the center of any policy decisions.

## Bonnie Brady, Policy Director:

Bonnie Brady has served as Executive Director of the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association (LICFA) since its founding in 2001, where she educates policymakers and the public about the heritage, value, and realities of Long Island's commercial fishing industry. She works to highlight the importance of buying U.S. wild-caught, locally landed seafood and represents the industry's perspective at the town, county, state, and federal levels.

She also serves on six advisory panels across two regional fishery management councils, the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils, providing at-sea and shoreside perspectives to help inform management decisions.

In addition to her work with LICFA, Ms. Brady is a founding board member of the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) and a board member of Protect Our Coast-New Jersey and was recognized as one of National Fisherman's "Highliners of the Year" in 2020.



A 20-year volunteer with the Montauk Fire Department and its first paramedic, her earlier career included working for Senator Bill Bradley in Washington, DC, serving as a Peace Corps health volunteer in Cameroon, and working as a print reporter.

Bonnie lives in Montauk, New York, with her husband, commercial trawler fisherman Dave Aripotch, and their two daughters.

## Jason Joyce, Director of Advocacy:

Capt. Jason Joyce is an 8th generation Swan's Island Maine commercial fisherman and USCG licensed captain. At 56, with experience in ground fishing, urchining, scalloping and shrimping, Jason has spent most of his 40 plus years on the water lobstering.

Currently following his grandmother Roberta Joyce's footsteps in a fourth term as town Selectman, Jason also serves industry on the Zone B lobster council and represents Zone B fishermen on

the Maine Department of Marine Resources Lobster Advisory Council.

Recently resigning in November 2025 from the Maine Lobstermen's Association board after serving 23 years, he looks forward to his more involved role on NEFSA's board as Director of Fisheries Advocacy. A husband of 36 years and a father of 4 with 6 grandchildren, this role is more than a position. He considers it a solemn duty to ensure the following generations have a voice fighting for sustainable opportunities previously held by New England's fishermen to provide for their families and sustain their communities and feed their nation.



NEFSA remains dedicated to supporting the interests of fishermen by advocating for fair policies that preserve our way of life and the living working infrastructure behind sustainable domestic seafood and coastal economies. With Bonnie and Jason's leadership, NEFSA will continue to advance initiatives that safeguard our fisheries and sustain coastal communities for generations to come.

## NEFSA at the US-Canada Lobster Town Meeting

NEFSA was a proud sponsor of the 2026 US – Canada Lobster Town Meeting January 21st-23rd, in Moncton, New Brunswick. Jason Joyce Director of Advocacy, John Drouin Vice President, Dustin Delano Chairman and Chief Strategist, Dustin Colson Director of Development, and Ronnie Musetti Treasurer were in attendance listening, learning, representing, and speaking up for American commercial fishermen. NEFSA was also able to visit the Homarus Centre in Shediac with Dr. Martin Malate, and Dr. Robert Bayer to learn more about the lobster hatchery in Canada.



# National Marine Monuments: Politics Over Science, Symbolism Over Seafood

*By Dustin Delano, Chairman & Chief Strategist*

For the second time, the President has taken decisive action to restore common sense to U.S. ocean policy by rolling back misguided restrictions tied to a so-called National Marine Monument in the Atlantic. NEFSA strongly supports this proclamation and applauds the administration for recognizing what fishermen, coastal communities, and food security experts have long known: marine monuments are not conservation tools — they are political constructs.

Let's be clear about what these monuments actually represent.

National Marine Monuments have increasingly become a way for large environmental NGOs and conservation organizations to close massive swaths of ocean with the stroke of a pen, bypassing science-based fishery management and ignoring the people who depend on these waters for their livelihoods. These designations are sold to the public as bold environmental victories, but in practice they function as fundraising vehicles — symbolic wins that help fuel multi-billion-dollar nonprofit machines while doing little to improve real conservation outcomes.

Commercial fishermen are already managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, one of the most stringent fisheries management systems in the world. Our fisheries are regulated by science, data, stock assessments, accountability measures, and constant oversight. Shutting fishermen out of responsibly managed waters does not make fish stocks healthier — it simply eliminates American fishermen from the equation.

The consequences are real. When domestic fishermen are forced out, the U.S. doesn't stop eating seafood — we just import more of it. Today, America already relies on foreign sources for roughly

85–90% of the seafood we consume, much of it harvested under weaker environmental standards, questionable labor practices, and far less transparency. Marine monuments don't protect oceans — they export environmental impact overseas while undermining our own food security.

Any politician who supports advancing national marine monuments as a serious conservation strategy has lost touch with reality — or worse, has been duped into believing that closing oceans equals protecting them. It's an easy talking point, but it's disconnected from how fisheries actually work and how conservation is truly achieved.

The President's latest action recognizes that commercial fishermen are not the enemy of the ocean. We are its stewards. Our livelihoods depend on healthy fish stocks and functioning ecosystems, and fishermen have been conserving long before conservation became a political brand.

This decision is also about the future. If the United States is serious about rebuilding its domestic seafood supply, strengthening working waterfronts, and reducing reliance on imports, then we must stop treating the ocean like a trophy case for ideological wins. We need policies that support sustainable harvest, domestic production, and economic resilience — not more closures driven by fundraising narratives and political optics.

NEFSA looks forward to continuing this conversation and pushing for policies that grow America's seafood economy while keeping our fisheries strong, science-based, and sustainable for generations to come.

## Report from NEFSA Director of Advocacy Jason Joyce

My new role at NEFSA found me hitting the pavement running here in January. Discussions with DMR regarding implementation of a new proposal for surveying shrimp in offshore waters year-round are showing promise with the possibility of a limited fishery for Vein Shrimp. I am working with the recipient of the first Glen Libby award on that (Glen Libby).

NEFSA is leading the fight against (LD1477), the International CAT ferry attempt to acquire an exemption from the legally required local pilot. Since LD1477's inception over a year ago, the province of Nova Scotia and the bill's proponents have avoided consulting local lobstermen who are most affected by the removal of the states only unbiased presence in the wheelhouse. The 300ft x 85ft CAT, capable of speeds exceeding 40kts with up to 200 vehicles and 866 passengers on board in the opinion of area fishermen would put public safety and property at risk if the required pilot was removed.

My attendance at zone meetings, ASMFC (Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council) meetings and pertinent NEFMC (New England Fishery Management Council) meetings, also had me attending a week long MREP (Marine Resources Education Program) in

Falmouth Mass. While attending, I saw the largest stockpile of the most useless waste of tax dollars (ropeless gear) which reaffirmed my commitment to express the majority opinion amongst the fleet that expensive and unreliable "on demand gear" is the wrong direction to push our fleet.

As things move along at the Trade Representative office, since testifying in D.C. about the need to address American Lobstermen's concerns over the gray zone on our eastern border, I'm looking forward to working with our Vice President John Drouin to finally gain some traction thanks to Representative Jarod Goldens office.

With the addition of Bonnie Brady as policy director, I'm excited about NEFSA's ability to not just be at the table, but to be regarded with respect by lawmakers and to be a resource that reflects the will of the fishermen and a proponent of sustainability practices.

This is the tip of the iceberg of issues we are all working on here, busier than one-armed paper hangers but very thankful to be working with the resources of a full team at the direction of the board.



# Five Cases, Four Judges, Three District Courts, Two Cases for the 92-Year-Old Judge, One Federal Pause

By Bonnie Brady, Director of Policy

A single stop work order issued in late December by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management halted five offshore wind projects in 2025. What followed was not one unified legal fight, but a series of parallel challenges now spread across three federal district courts and four judges. Two of the cases are before the same 92-year-old judge in Washington, DC, a third case in the District of Columbia is before a different judge, and the remaining cases are before judges in Massachusetts and the Eastern District of Virginia. Each court is addressing the same pause, but on different timelines and under different approaches.

The pause, signed by BOEM, stopped construction and cited national security concerns as the justification. That justification is now being tested simultaneously in multiple courtrooms.

## Revolution Wind: Preliminary Injunction Blocks the Pause

Revolution Wind produced the first major ruling. On January 12, 2026, 92-year-old Judge Royce Lamberth of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the pause against that project. This prevents BOEM, acting through the Department of the Interior, from stopping construction on Revolution Wind while the case proceeds.

In reaching that decision, the judge largely accepted Orsted's arguments at face value. Claims about power shortages, winter reliability, and public harm were treated as established facts, while warnings about people freezing or facing blackouts if construction did not continue were not closely scrutinized.

At the same time, Judge Lamberth openly questioned whether Interior officials were being truthful about national security concerns, pointing to public statements by Interior Secretary Doug Burgum criticizing offshore wind as unreliable and expensive. Even after reviewing classified materials privately, the judge did not find the government's justification persuasive. Lawsuits filed by Rhode Island and Connecticut were consolidated into the Revolution Wind case, meaning all claims affecting that project are now handled together.

## Empire Wind: Preliminary Injunction in Place, Merits Phase Underway

Empire Wind, owned by Equinor, is before Judge Carl Nichols in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. On January 15, 2026, Judge Nichols issued a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the December 22 pause

against Empire Wind. He made clear that this ruling was temporary and procedural and did not decide whether the government acted lawfully.

The decision was issued as a minute order, meaning it was announced from the bench without a detailed written opinion. At the same time, the court placed the case on an expedited path toward summary judgment. Summary judgment means the judge will decide the case based on written arguments and the government's official record, without a trial or witnesses.

Under the court's January 26, 2026, scheduling order, the federal government must certify the administrative record by February 13, 2026. Any motion to add documents to that record, or to ask the court to consider evidence outside the record, is due by February 27, 2026. If such a motion is filed, the existing summary judgment briefing schedule is automatically vacated, and the parties must submit a new schedule within five days after the court rules on the record issue.

The administrative record is the set of emails, reports, memos, studies, declarations, and other materials BOEM and Interior relied on when issuing the stop work order. It does not include explanations created later for litigation. The judge will use that record to decide whether the agency acted lawfully.

For now, Empire Wind remains protected by the preliminary injunction. That protection, however, can still be lifted or made permanent depending on how Judge Nichols rules on summary judgment.

## Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind: Most Definitive Injunction So Far

The most decisive ruling so far came in the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind case. On January 16, 2026, Judge Jamar Walker of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia issued a detailed written order granting a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the pause against Dominion Energy's commercial CVOW project.

The judge stated plainly that the government is likely to lose on the merits, that Dominion would suffer serious harm if construction stopped, and that fairness and the public interest favor allowing the project to continue. He stayed the BOEM order and barred enforcement unless the court later directs otherwise. The judge also required Dominion to post



an injunction bond of only one hundred dollars, an unusually low amount for a project of this size, signaling strong confidence in the ruling.

## **Vineyard Wind: Preliminary Injunction Issued, Case Moves to Expedited Briefing**

Vineyard Wind case is being heard by Judge Brian Murphy of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. He issued an order today, January 27th, staying enforcement of the December 22 stop work order as it applies to the Vineyard Wind 1 project. This is a preliminary injunction, not a final ruling on the merits. The court ordered the parties to submit an expedited schedule that will govern briefing and next steps before deciding whether the injunction should remain in place or be lifted.

## **Sunrise Wind: Court to Decide Injunction at February 2 Hearing**

Sunrise Wind is also before Judge Lamberth in the District of Columbia. Briefing on Sunrise Wind's request for a preliminary injunction is underway. The federal government's response was due earlier this week January 23, 2026, and Sunrise Wind's reply is due this Thursday, January 29, 2026. An in-person preliminary injunction hearing is scheduled for February 2, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. That hearing will determine whether Sunrise Wind receives continued protection from the BOEM pause or whether they will be allowed to enforce the stop work order against that project.

## **What Does This All Mean?**

The December 22 pause is now being tested in multiple courts at the same time, with cases moving on different schedules and before different judges. Some judges are openly skeptical of the government's national security justification, others are still weighing the evidence, and at least one has concluded the pause cannot stand. What happens next will depend less on the pause itself and more on how these cases move, how quickly appeals are filed, which judges ultimately decide them, and what the courts allow into the administrative record.

That last point matters because the scope of the record could fundamentally change how these cases are understood. In a national security case, the court is supposed to judge the government's action based on what was actually known and relied upon at the time the stop work order was issued.

If additional documents are allowed into the record, they could raise uncomfortable questions about what the wind developers knew, when they knew it, and whether key issues were fully vetted? This includes unresolved concerns around

FAA turbine reviews, determinations of no hazard, radar interference, and whether projects proceeded on assumptions that later proved incomplete or inaccurate. While no court has made findings on those issues, their inclusion would shift the focus from abstract policy disputes to concrete questions about disclosure, diligence, and representations made to regulators.

What also makes this moment extraordinary is not the national security risk itself, but the courts' apparent refusal to credit it. Historically, courts have almost never second-guessed an administration's assessment of national security threats, regardless of which party was in power, because judges have long recognized that they lack the expertise and access to substitute their judgment for that of the military and intelligence agencies.

Here, however, judges appear willing to dismiss or minimize warnings from the Department of War as if they were ordinary policy arguments rather than core defense assessments. That break from decades of judicial restraint raises a far larger question than offshore wind alone: why is this administration's national security determinations being treated as uniquely unworthy of deference, and what consequences will follow when courts decide they know better than those charged with defending the country?

## **NEFSA at the 51st Annual Fishermen's Forum**

NEFSA will be at the Fishermen's Forum in Rockland, ME, March 5-7, 2026. Be sure to swing by our booth for free NEFSA information and promotional giveaways! NEFSA swag for everyone will be available for purchase and you can become a member or check on your membership status while you are there. We look forward to seeing you! FMI on the Fishermen's Forum: <https://mainefishermensforum.org/>

## **NEFSA 3rd Annual Meeting**

The New England Fishermen's Stewardship Association invites members, partners, and supporters to attend our 3rd Annual Meeting, to be held on Friday, March 6, at Steel House South, located at 639 Main Street, Rockland, Maine. Doors will open at 7:00 a.m., with the meeting beginning promptly at 7:30 a.m.

This annual gathering provides an important opportunity to connect with fellow fishermen and stakeholders, hear organizational updates, and discuss priorities for the year ahead. The meeting will take place alongside the Maine Fishermen's Forum and is open to NEFSA members and invited guests. Light pastries and coffee will be served. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy refreshments and informal conversation prior to the start of the meeting.

NEFSA looks forward to welcoming members and guests and appreciates your continued engagement and support.





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## NEFSA at Kennebunkport's Christmas Prelude

For the third year in a row, NEFSA was onboard the F/V Nor'easter, owned by NEFSA member Mike Perkins, for Kennebunkport's annual Christmas Prelude boat rides. Each year, the event receives nationwide attention and is ranked a top Christmas destination in America. During the rides, hundreds of Prelude attendees learned about NEFSA, engaged in conver-

sation, and were given NEFSA information, bracelets, decals, and a limited number of NEFSA swag items. The Nor'easter also escorted Santa into town with a NEFSA flag flying. A newsclip of the boat with the NEFSA flag aired on national news during a segment of ABC's Good Morning America show.

