



# Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy

## 2017 Highlights

### Our motivation

Maine's ocean and coastal resources are the foundation of our coastal communities, contributing vital jobs and shaping our culture. We Mainers pride ourselves on the distinctiveness of our local communities, the prominence of owner-operated small businesses, and the rural and pristine character of much of our coast. Maine fishermen land the highest-value annual catch, including our iconic lobster fishery, of all East Coast states. Yet, Maine's marine environment and its marine markets are changing. Rising ocean temperatures and ocean acidification, shifting abundances of species, and fluctuating markets are creating both opportunities and challenges. Blessed with an incredibly productive marine ecosystem, clean water, access to an array of private, public and nonprofit research institutions, and a culture of ingenuity and hard work, Maine's marine economy has great promise for continued advancement. Commercial fishing and aquaculture industries, together with the increasing activity in seafood processing and value-added market development for Maine-based marine products, signal incredible potential for sustainable economic growth in the next decade.

### Our mission

The Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy is a network of more than 20 Maine-based organizations dedicated to a vibrant marine economy for Maine. **Our mission is to ensure that Maine seafood, fishing and aquaculture industries, and the natural and innovation ecosystems on which they depend are healthy and benefit Maine people.**



Expansion of the facilities at the Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research and Education will create new space for science and industry partnerships. Photo courtesy of Brian Beal.

## Our partners

The University of Maine System, including the following UMaine entities: Darling Marine Center, Maine Sea Grant, School of Marine Sciences, Aquaculture Research Institute, Cooperative Extension, School of Food and Agriculture, Lobster Institute, Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research, Office of Innovation and Economic Development, and the University of Maine at Machias marine field station.

Maine Coast Fishermen's Association

Maine Aquaculture Association

Cape Seafood

Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center

Maine Lobster Dealers' Association

Maine Lobstermen's Association

Downeast Lobstermen's Association

Gulf of Maine Research Institute

University of New England

Maine Department of  
Marine Resources

Maine Technology Institute

Bigelow Laboratory for  
Ocean Sciences

Coastal Enterprises, Inc.

Island Institute

Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries

Downeast Institute for Applied Marine  
Research & Education

Maine Fair Trade Lobster

Cooke Aquaculture

## Accomplishments to date

Since its founding in May 2016, the Alliance has undertaken a transformative, 10-year, more than \$14 million initiative to foster development in Maine's marine sectors. Capital investments in public and private infrastructure will benefit the entire sector. On behalf of the state of Maine, the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) manages the finances of the Marine Economy and Jobs bond, and in partnership with the Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy, invested in seven capital projects and awarded eight competitive capital grants in 2017.



Photos left to right: Mussel seed is collected on coiled, pegged grow-out seed ropes to be used in breakthrough mussel raft technology at Pemaquid Mussel Farms, LLC. Newly constructed submersible mussel raft without buoys, ropes or nets. Photos courtesy of Carter Newell.

## Projects in 2017

The Alliance, working with the Maine Technology Institute, is enabling the following investments via the state bond funds and additional matching funds:

- \$500,000 (match \$800,000) for expansion of Maine Fair Trade Lobster, a seafood processing plant in Prospect Harbor (Hancock County)
- \$150,000 (match \$182,000) for lobster processing equipment at Cape Seafood in Saco (York County)
- \$500,000 (match \$1,200,000) for a feed barge for a new locally managed aquaculture facility in Downeast Maine owned by Cooke Aquaculture USA (Washington County)
- \$650,000 (match \$650,000) for improvements to the waterfront infrastructure at UMaine's Darling Marine Center in Walpole to support applied research, development and business incubation (Lincoln County)

- \$2,000,000 (match \$2,000,000) for the addition of laboratory and business incubation space at the marine science field station of the University of Maine at Machias, the Downeast Institute, in Beals (Washington County)
- \$125,000 (match \$125,000) for instrumentation to support Bigelow Laboratory's analytical services for Maine's wild-harvest and farm-raised seaweed industries (Lincoln County)
- \$1,150,000 (match \$1,650,000) for construction of an Aquatic Animal Health Facility at UMaine with high-level biosafety capabilities to study fish pathogens and help minimize health risks to Maine's wild and farmed fish stocks (Penobscot County)



Developing innovative lobster processing equipment will create new lobster products, customers and markets, allowing Cape Seafood to process more lobster and employ more workers in Maine. Photo courtesy of Luke's Lobster.



New technology will extend the shelf-life of fresh Maine lobster meat enabling Maine Seafood Ventures to generate revenue, create jobs and expand markets and production. Photo courtesy of Curt Brown.

The Maine Technology Institute, in partnership with the Alliance, initiated a competitive Marine Economy Capital Grants Program:

- \$44,328 (match \$204,972) to Blue Hill Bay Mussels, LLC to commercialize remote settlement, a proven hatchery technology (Hancock County)
- \$66,574 (match \$75,000) to Coastal Enterprises, Inc. to increase the sustainable supply, quality, and diversity of farm-raised sea scallops (multiple locations)
- \$100,000 (match \$100,000) to Community Shellfish, LLC to develop a dynamic and innovative aquaculture venue to grow shellfish on the Medomak River (Lincoln County)
- \$400,000 (match \$1,650,000) to Maine Seafood Ventures to expand markets for fresh Maine lobster by implementing the latest high-pressure processing technology (York County)
- \$336,000 (match \$1,897,228) to Mook Sea Farm to build a multipurpose, state-of-the-art oyster facility (Lincoln County)
- \$250,400 (match \$540,000) to Pemaquid Mussel Farms, LLC to continue development of submersible mussel raft technology to increase production of cultured mussels (Lincoln County)
- \$180,000 (match \$697,000) to Springtide Seaweed, LLC for the creation of a new aquaculture seaweed exchange to expand seaweed production (Knox County)
- \$400,000 (match \$1,150,000) to Shucks Maine Lobster Inc. to expand a lobster processing facility (Cumberland County)

More information on MTI's Marine Capital Grants Program is online: [mainetechnology.org](http://mainetechnology.org).

## Looking ahead

The capital investments enabled by the bond and matching funds are just the beginning. By leveraging existing capacity and working together to pursue new resources, the Alliance is:

- Catalyzing targeted infrastructure and workforce development investments that facilitate business development
- Accelerating product innovation
- Assessing and preventing risks to resource health
- Forecasting changes in product supply

Alliance partners have identified additional projects and contracts that will attract at least another \$50 million of additional private sector and federal grant dollars over the next 10 years, above and beyond the state bond funds. Together, this evolving portfolio of investments and expanded infrastructure and workforce capacity will ensure that Maine marine industries are able to innovate and adapt their business strategies to new opportunities and challenges as they emerge.

As part of this project and in recognition of the central role of Maine's public universities in Maine's marine economy, the University of Maine System has committed more than \$2.3 million in internal funds to this important effort.

## An invitation to all

The Alliance is open to all individuals, businesses and organizations that share the commitment to a future Maine where healthy marine ecosystems and coastal communities support a diversity of traditional fisheries, aquaculture and other marine-dependent industries.

To learn more about the Alliance, visit [umaine.edu/alliance](http://umaine.edu/alliance).

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Seawater treatment trials with new technology will develop more reliable, scalable organic nursery seed production to support Maine's seaweed industry. Photo courtesy of Springtide Seaweed, LLC.



A new aquaculture seaweed exchange will expand seaweed production, increase jobs and develop innovative new and value-added products. Photo courtesy of Springtide Seaweed, LLC.



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