



FISHERIES & TOURISM

FACT SHEET SERIES

Overview

Tourism opportunities can provide fishermen and aquaculture farmers with a way to diversify and become financially stable while continuing to work on the water. Tours for lobstering, whale- and bird-watching, coastal fishing, and trips to shellfish farms are becoming more common, as fishermen and aquaculture farmers begin to use their knowledge, their vessels, and fisheries infrastructure as unique assets in the tourist trade.



Natalie Springuel

However, obstacles to diversification do exist, especially concerning licensing, liability and safety, business structure, and contracting with partners.

In 2011, Maine Sea Grant received funds from the National Sea Grant Law Center to research the legal barriers faced by fishermen and aquaculturists as they consider engaging in the tourism industry. The research was conducted by a Sea Grant fellow and law student in the Marine Affairs Institute at Roger Williams University, in partnership with Rhode Island Sea Grant. The final report, *Legal Barriers and Opportunities to Developing Business Partnerships between Fisheries and Tourism*, is available at the project website, seagrant.umaine.edu/fisheries-tourism.

The *Fisheries & Tourism Fact Sheet Series* provides

basic information to help fishermen and aquaculture farmers get started in tourism.

Topics in the series

Partnerships

What makes a great tour?

Marketing 101

Aquaculture tours

Fishing licenses

Captain's licenses

Vessel requirements

Maritime law & liability

Business models



Chris Bartlett

This fact sheet is part of a series intended to provide resources for fishermen and aquaculture farmers who seek to augment their earnings through tourism. More information, including the legal research upon which these fact sheets are based, can be found at seagrant.umaine.edu/fisheries-tourism.

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