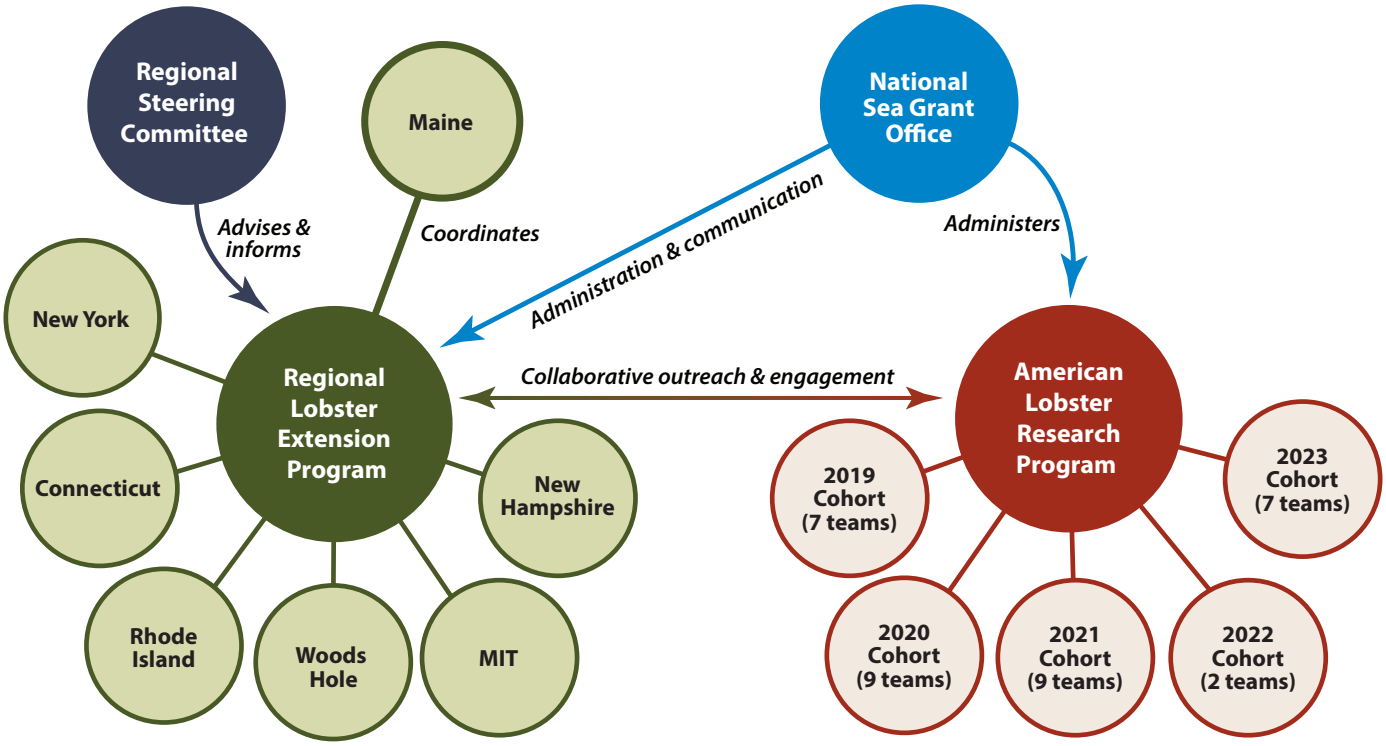
Sea Grant American Lobster Initiative (ALI)



Initiative details

- GOAL: to increase the American lobster industry's resilience to the biological, economic, and social impacts of ecosystem change in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and southern New England.
- *American Lobster Research Program*—16 of the 31 research projects are being led by Maine institutions (over $8.5 million investment), administered by the National Sea Grant Office.
- *Regional Lobster Extension Program*—complements and adds value to the research projects through local and coordinated efforts of the seven Northeast Sea Grant Programs (over $1.5 million investment), adds regional capacity for lobster, advised by a Regional Steering Committee.

Extension efforts by Maine Sea Grant

- Continued leadership and coordination of the regional lobster extension program with efforts to build bridges across all groups harvesting, researching, and/or managing lobster in the Gulf of Maine to address and collaboratively develop solutions to new challenges.
- Organization and facilitation of the ongoing "Collaborative Chats" webinar series highlighting successful research partnerships in the lobster industry.
- Co-organization of a collaborative research roadmap workshop with Maine's Department of Marine Resources (DMR) to evaluate existing and set new research priorities for lobster.
- Leadership in organizing the Regional Research & Outreach Summit to bring the network together to share updates, receive feedback, and embark on new collaborative research and extension projects.
- Partnership with DMR to coordinate a state-wide Community Engagement Program as part of the Maine Innovative Gear Library Project, supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's New England Gear Innovation Fund.
- Collaboration with seven organizations across Maine to develop demonstrations, standardized trainings, workshops, and informational materials on alternative gear technologies to facilitate knowledge sharing.

Research projects in Maine

Brady | University of Maine, 2019
Projecting climate-related shifts in American lobster habitat and connectivity

Brady | University of Maine, 2021
An ecosystem-based approach to modeling climate-related impacts on American lobster habitat

Goldstein | Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, 2019
Potential influence of increased water temperatures on the distribution of female American lobsters and shifts in larval recruitment

Goldstein | Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, 2021
Understanding environmental drivers of egg production and stability

Golet | University of Maine, 2020
Incorporating changes in thermal habitat and growth to improve the assessment of American lobster stocks and spatial distribution

Groner | Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, 2023
In hot water? Predicting how shifting temperatures and molting phenologies will impact regional patterns of epizootic shell disease in American lobster

Mills | Gulf of Maine Research Institute, 2019
Resilience, adaptation, and transformation in lobster fishing communities

Mills | Gulf of Maine Research Institute, 2020
Understanding and improving spatial distribution projections for lobster

Mills | Gulf of Maine Research Institute, 2023
Ecosystem regime shifts and American lobster populations

Pelletier | Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation, 2022
Providing the lobster industry new gear technology in response to regulatory and environmental changes

Peters | Department of Marine Resources, 2021
Answering an industry question, "Who's eating juvenile lobsters?" using predator stomach content analysis

Staples | Department of Marine Resources, 2022
Integrating and evaluating non-traditional gear technologies to reduce the risk to whales from fixed-gear fisheries

Stoll | University of Maine, 2020
Defining indicators of resilience in the American lobster fishery

Tokunaga | Gulf of Maine Research Institute, 2019
Fish less, earn more: assessing maximum economic yield effort levels in gulf of maine's lobster fishery

Waller | Department of Marine Resources, 2020
Testing and developing effective non-invasive female maturity assessment methods and protocols

Wahle | University of Maine, 2019
Linking the Gulf of Maine pelagic food web to lobster recruitment dynamics

Links to webpages

American Lobster Initiative
https://qr1.be/L0A2

"Collaborative Chats" webinar series
https://qr1.be/5DDZ

"A Fishery in a Sea of Change" StoryMap
https://qr1.be/W99K

ALI Partners

MLA Maine Lobstermen's Association
The University of Maine
Sea Grant Maine
Colby
wellsreserve at laudholm
Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
Lobster Institute
Maine Maritime Academy
Maine Marine Resources
Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Saint Joseph's College of Maine
University of Southern Maine
manomet
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
Fish and Game
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association
Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association
Gulf of Maine Research Institute
CFRF Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation
Sea Grant Northeast