



Maritime

Shorts

Hinckley outlook

TRENTON — In 2013, the Hinckley Company's 85th year, the firm hit a five-year high in employment, launched 45 new boats including a 42-foot sailboat, and announced plans for two new models in 2014. "We could not be happier with the business we've earned for the coming months and year," said general manager Andy Fitzpatrick.

Hinckley expects to deliver more than 50 new boats in 2014, several of which will go to the Pacific coast. "We have expanded our operations on the Left Coast and boaters out there seem to be taking to the Maine style," said Mr. Fitzpatrick. "We have also established a network of authorized Hinckley service providers to four from Seattle to San Diego."

Mr. Fitzpatrick added, "we are seeking new talent in almost every department of the company right now, and that's a great way to start a new year."

Hinckley was acquired in 2010 by Scout Partners, a partnership between David Howe and Pete Petersen, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce. In 2013, Scout Partners also acquired Hunt Yachts. The two boat companies will retain separate building operations.

Water worries

AUGUSTA — The adverse effects of ocean acidification on commercially important shellfish fisheries and Maine's shellfish aquaculture industry are the focus of a bill before the Legislature's Marine Resources Committee.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Michael Devin (D-Newcastle) and co-sponsored by a host of legislators from Hancock and Washington counties and throughout the state (LD1602), would establish a commission to examine at the effects of ocean acidification and its potential impact on commercial shellfish harvested along the Maine coast.

Ocean acidification occurs when carbon dioxide from fossil fuel use and other carbon sources dissolves in the water and forms carbonic acid. Other sources of acidification include fresh water from rivers and decomposing algae feeding off nutrients in runoff. Carbonic acid dissolves the shells of shellfish.

Ocean acidification already has had devastating effects. A study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 2007 found that changes in ocean chemistry that were not expected for another 50 to 100 years already were present along the West Coast. These changes led to the failure of shellfish hatcheries in Washington state.

"Shellfish hatcheries have been likened to 'canaries in coal mines,'" said Bill Mook, attorney general of Massachusetts. "If ocean acidification is making Mook Sea Farm's check engine light come on, then we should be very concerned about wild shellfish larvae."

Others testifying in support of the bill included representatives from the Sierra Club, the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences and the Department of Marine Resources (DMR). Nobody testified against the bill.

Groundfish funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Susan Collins, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that the Fiscal Year 2014 federal funding bill includes \$75 million for the mitigation of fishery disasters declared by the Secretary of Commerce, which will aid struggling groundfishermen in the Northeast, including Maine, and other areas of the country.

In September 2012, the U.S. Commerce Department declared a disaster in the Northeast groundfishing industry. This declaration opened the door for Congress to appropriate funding to help alleviate the financial hardship caused by dwindling fish stock.

Shutdown of shrimp season prompts shift

By Liz Graves
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ELLSWORTH — When the 2014 Maine commercial shrimp season was canceled by an Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission decision last month, fishermen were not the only ones left scrambling. Wholesalers and retailers have had to change their plans, too.

Area restaurants have taken steps to inform patrons the shrimp on their menus are not from Maine.

"We're not going to be selling any Maine-caught shrimp this year, obviously," said Jim Marcos, general manager of Maine Shellfish Co. in Ellsworth. "We have an entire range of shrimp that our customers can choose from."

The range includes some caught domestically, in the Gulf of Mexico, but they are a different species. Mr. Marcos said that *panidulus borealis*, the species of shrimp normally caught in the Gulf of Maine, is distinctive. "It's such a great species," he said. "You can't duplicate that nice, nutty flavor."

This year, Maine Shellfish has been sourcing that species from Canada.

"Maine is a pretty small market," Mr. Marcos said.

"We're not going to be selling any Maine-caught shrimp this year, obviously."

— Jim Marcos

In the 2012 season, 2,185 metric tons of shrimp were landed and sold in Maine, according to Department of Marine Resources data. In 2013, it was down to 268.

"Before 2013, there was always enough," Mr. Marcos said. "Maine is a pretty small market. Last year was really the first time we had to fill in with some Canadian shrimp."

He noted that the shrimp fishery produces incomes for people who work peeling as well as harvesters. Maine Shellfish has 30 full-time employees at the Ellsworth facility and another 30 in Kennebunk.

"When we do have shrimp, we bring on more folks to do the processing," he said, drawing from a pool of area residents who are skilled in that work.

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ISLANDER PHOTOS BY LIZ GRAVES

It smiles all around for the christening of the patrol vessel Dirigo II Jan. 15 at Abel's Boat Yard on Somes Sound, and not just because of the warm weather. The boat's builder, Stewart Workman of SW Boatworks in Lamoine, left, and Marine Patrol Major Jon Cornish celebrate the result of more than a year of work.

Built in Maine at SW Boatworks

Marine Patrol's Dirigo II christened

By Liz Graves
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MOUNT DESERT — The police vessel Dirigo has been a familiar sight in Hancock County waters for years, a platform for fisheries regulation enforcement, search and rescue and the other functions of the Maine Marine Patrol. The Dirigo was recently sold and replaced with the Dirigo II, built by SW Boatworks in Lamoine. The new vessel was christened Jan. 15 at Abel's boat yard on Somes Sound.

Specialist Colin McDonald of the Marine Patrol is the boat's skipper, patrolling from the Penobscot River to the Hancock Bridge. He was closely involved with the new boat's building process beginning when the bid was chosen from three submitted in December 2012.

Officials at the christening stressed that the new boat will be safer and increase the Marine Patrol's law enforcement capabilities.

"The boat belongs to the commercial fishing industry and the people of the state."

— Patrick Keliher

"The boat belongs to the commercial fishing industry and the people of the state," said Department of Marine Resources Commissioner Patrick Keliher. "Fisheries management doesn't stop with the management decisions we make. It also requires the cooperation of fishermen and the dedication of our Marine Patrol officers."

While not intended to be a chase boat, the Dirigo II does have a faster cruising speed than its predecessor. It also features Sound Down sound insulation around the CAT C12 engine, aiding communication by making it much quieter in the wheelhouse.

"We used to use production boats built by out of state companies for the marine patrol," Col. Joe Fessenden said. "There's no comparison; they weren't up to the job."

Designed by Calvin Beal Jr., the Dirigo II is 38 feet 9 inches long overall, with a 15-foot beam. The open transom is 14 feet 2 inches. The draft is just over 4 feet.

Fully commissioned, the boat cost \$412,000 to build. Of that price, 85 percent was funded by a federal Joint Enforcement Grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service. Under a Joint Enforcement

Agreement, the Marine Patrol enforces federal as well as state fisheries laws. The balance of the price came from the sale of the old Dirigo to a fisherman through a Rockland yacht broker.

SW Boatworks is a primary source of new commercial fishing boats in the area, employing 19 craftsmen full time.

"We enjoyed the challenge of meeting the specifications and needs of the Marine Patrol," said Stewart Workman, SW's owner.

In addition to the finished work and pleasure boats they build, the company also sends 12-15 unfinished hulls and tops to different finishers every year, according to Business Manager Alice Workman.

Many other local businesses were involved in supplying parts or as subcontractors in the project, including Nautilus Marine, Exposit's Welding, Kramp Electronics, Billings Diesel, Sanborn's Upholstery and Tidal Graphics. maritimes.fenceviewer.com

Researcher to discuss tidal energy, fisheries

BAR HARBOR — An expert in marine resources, science and business is set to visit College of the Atlantic next week for a talk and discussion.

Don Perkins, president and CEO at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI), will talk to COA's Human Ecology Forum about human ecology as practiced at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

The talk will begin at 4:10 p.m. in the McCormick Lecture Hall. It is free and open to the public.

Mr. Perkins has been active in the marine policy arena on multiple levels, serving on the board of the Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation and recently co-chairing the Governor's Ocean Energy Task Force. He was co-founder of Friends of Casco Bay and the Maine Marine Research Coalition, and previously served on the boards of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System, Maine Department of Marine Resources Advisory Council and Maine Legislature's Task Force on the Development of Aquaculture. He serves on the board of MMG Insurance and the advisory board of Tilson Technology Management.

Don and his colleagues at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute are doing some of the most innovative, transdisciplinary applied research in our state," noted COA President Darron Collins. "We're excited to have Don on campus and to explore ways we might collaborate to help address some of Maine's most important social and environmental issues."

Born in Waterville, Mr. Perkins has lived in a variety of Maine's coastal and inland communities, as well as in Israel and Brazil. He holds a BA in Anthropology from Dartmouth College and a MBA from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. For more information about the talk, contact John Visvader at jvisvader@coa.edu or 288-5015.

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Don Perkins, president of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, will talk to College of the Atlantic's Human Ecology Forum Jan. 28.

ISLANDER PHOTO COURTESY OF COA



The cockpit of the P/V Dirigo II, left, features VHF and police radios, chart plotter, and computer. At right, the boat's skipper Marine Patrol Officer Colin McDonald with the commissioning plaque to be displayed in the new boat.