



Public Informational Meeting: Planning a Connecticut Cooperative Abandoned Lobster Pot Removal Program

March 3, 2021, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Public Act 18-54, passed in 2018, amended Section 26-23 of Connecticut General Statutes to allow for removal of derelict lobster gear “by an authorized representative of the commissioner” of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). This change to state law was intended to provide an avenue for DEEP to establish a cooperative program for removal of abandoned lobster pots from the Connecticut waters of Long Island Sound. Cornell University Cooperative Extension, in cooperation with the NY commercial fishing industry, has conducted an abandoned lobster pot removal program in the NY waters of Long Island Sound since 2010. This program has removed over 20,000 abandoned lobster pots from the Sound to-date.

In 2020, DEEP used the authority created by Public Act 18-54 for the first time, authorizing the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk to conduct abandoned lobster pot removal activities. The Maritime Aquarium and partners including Save the Sound and Project Oceanology plan to seek grant funding to initiate a Connecticut abandoned lobster pot removal program similar to the one operated by Cornell University Cooperative Extension. It is important to note: The Maritime Aquarium and partners have not conducted any pot removal activities to-date.

This meeting is intended to provide information to interested members of the public on plans for initiating an abandoned lobster pot removal program in Connecticut, and to seek input from the Connecticut commercial fishing industry on how such a cooperative program should be conducted. Representatives from The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, Save the Sound, Project Oceanology, and Cornell University Cooperative Extension will present results from the removal work that has been conducted in New York waters, along with the vision for initiating work in Connecticut waters.

The meeting will be held on Zoom. Please use the link and info below to join the meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91612872372?pwd=VmRTTnVKU1crOVZLM3JyYmxoVmM5UT09>

Call-in number (alternative to joining via computer): 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 916 1287 2372

Passcode: 627957

For further information, contact the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program by email at deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov, by mail at P.O. Box 719, Old Lyme, CT 06371 or leave a voicemail for Marine Fisheries at 860.434.6043.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact Barbara Viadella or Cenit Mirabal, DEEP Office of Diversity and Equity at (860) 418-5910 or by email @ deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you are requesting a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, need some other type of accommodation, or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint. In order to facilitate efforts to provide an accommodation, please request all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program or event.