

# ISLAND INSTITUTE

## *SUSTAINING MAINE'S FISHING COMMUNITIES*

*Marine Economic Development Programming, Fall/Winter 2015*

*This fall and winter, the Island Institute is offering a series of programming aimed at strengthening fishing and marine-related businesses. We invite you to join us in these programs if you are curious, if you already have an idea to improve your business and would like help, or if you are simply tired of painting buoys and want to get together for some food, company and interesting conversation. We have developed these programs in conjunction with partners and are bringing them to communities and places where there is interest. If you would like to have a small meeting or workshop on one of these topics – or something else, give us a call!*

**Financial Planning Workshops and Fishermen's Bank Accounts:** The life of a fisherman is by nature unpredictable and does not produce a steady paycheck. Financial security is always important, and we are now offering workshops to communities and fishermen's coops that will provide resources, tips, and ideas to help captains and crew manage their incomes in order to live comfortably in the short term as well as be prepared for the long term. We are also working with several financial institutions throughout Maine to setup a fisherman-specific bank account that is catered toward the industry and incentivizes savings with higher rewards.

**Marine/Fisheries Tourism Meetings:** We are conducting meetings in island and coastal communities that would like to diversify their fishing income by engaging tourists. At these meetings, we bring a variety of experts to the table that will help brainstorm new ideas for marine tourism businesses as well as help you navigate the legal and business aspects that will make them a success

**Business Support for Fishermen and Aquaculturists:** In addition to group programs, we are offering one-on-one business support for any and all islanders, especially those that make their living off of the ocean. Our staff includes experts in both small business planning and fisheries and can help in a variety tasks from creating a business plan to financing a boat. We also leverage the state's considerable expertise to help you in all aspects of your work.

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**Aquaculture Community Meetings:** With our expert partners, we have hosted two community meetings in Harpswell and Corea to discuss the Aquaculture and Shared Waters (ASW) training class for fishermen that has taken place in the past. These meetings are built around a brief introduction to aquaculture in Maine, including the gear, the technology, and the permitting process, and are aimed at gauging interest in a similar class being offered in your area. The ASW program combines classroom-based discussions with hands-on field trips to aquaculture sites throughout the state, with the goal of introducing as many individuals as possible to the emerging aquaculture industry. Contact us if you are interested in holding one of these meetings in your area, and go to <http://www.seagrant.umaine.edu/aquaculture-in-shared-waters> to find updates about any classes to be offered in late 2015/2016 or contact Maine Sea Grant Extension Agent Dana Morse at [dana.morse@maine.edu](mailto:dana.morse@maine.edu).

**Island Institute Aquaculture Cohort Program:** Calling all perspective aquaculturists! We are accepting applications to join a cohort of 5-10 fishermen and other motivated island and remote coastal residents who would like help in starting some form of aquaculture. As a member of this cohort, we will work closely with you to navigate the aquaculture leasing process, connect you to technical assistance and potential markets, and to create a sustainable business plan that allows you to combine aquaculture with your existing fishing business if you so choose. For the complete announcement and application, go to the Island Institute's blog at <http://www.islandinstitute.org/blog> or contact any of our staff via email. If you are interested in any way in getting involved in aquaculture, we encourage you to apply. Completed applications should be turned in by November 10.

**If you have questions about any of these programs, don't hesitate to contact us:**

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