

## Around the coasts

most folks — abundance hasn't been an issue. So they may be surprised to learn that lobstermen in southern New England are wrestling with a proposal that would shut them down for five years.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission says the southern New England stock is experiencing recruit-

ment failure stemming from environmental factors, primarily warming waters, as well as the harvest and is "critically depleted" as a result.

The range of southern New England lobster extends from Cape Cod to Virginia. According to the commission, the lobster population in the region declined

from more than 35 million to fewer than 15 million in 10 years. The shutdown proposal, which originated with the commission's technical committee, represents a ramping up of a recommendation last August to reduce landings.

Fishermen in the region take issue with the proposal and say lobstering has been improving. And, they contend that some harvesting is appropriate if decline is attributed to environmental conditions. Industry's willingness to reduce the harvest suggests a buyout of some fishermen might be salable politically.

A problem with shutting down the fishery is that doing so would turn off the data spigot that harvest statistics represent. The commission says that fishery-independent surveys would need to be "intensified."

The commission has scheduled a hearing for July 22 in Warwick, R.I. A decision is expected in November.

— Jerry Fraser

## BOAT of the MONTH

### Jeanoah

Kodiak, Alaska

Pacific cod, halibut, blackcod



JAMES STEVENS

For some, this will be the last look at the Jeanoah before it heads south to shipyards for a winter's work and returns to Kodiak, Alaska, sporting a new house and with the hull reconfigured to a whaleback design.

James Stevens of Kodiak has been running the boat for seven years, and became a part owner two years ago, joining two other co-owners.

"I was given the opportunity to buy into the Jeanoah two years ago and jumped on it," he says.

As testament to its seaworthiness, Stevens had the boat out in 80-knot winds and 30-foot seas during the first days of this year's halibut season in early March.

"It was a complete nightmare out there," he says.

— Charlie Ess

**Home port:** Kodiak, Alaska

**Owners:** James Stevens, Jerry Bongen, Bob Jacobson

**Fisheries:** Pacific cod, halibut, blackcod

**Builder:** Bender Shipbuilding and Repair, Mobile, Ala.

**Year built:** 1970

**Hull construction:** Steel

**Length:** 82 feet

**Beam:** 22 feet

**Draft:** 9.6 Feet

**Tonnage:** Gross 105, net 71

**Main propulsion:** 2009

505-hp, 16-liter Tier 2 Isuzu engine with high-pressure common rail fuel

**Gearbox:** Twin Disc MG 5170 6:1

**Gensets:** 2007 John Deer 6081 Tier 2 common rail, 1,800 rpm 172 kW; 2007 John Deer 6068 Tier 2 electronic governor, 1,800 rpm 100-kW.

**Propeller:** Four-blade bronze propeller

**Shaft:** 4-inch stainless steel

**Speed:** 9 knots

**Fuel consumption:** 10 gallons per hour

**Fuel capacity:** 7,000 gallons

**Hold capacity:** main hold — 90,000 pounds; second hold — 50,000 pounds

**Freshwater capacity:** 2,500 gallons

**Crew capacity:** 6

**Electronics:** Simrad AP50 autopilot with satellite and magnetic compass, Comnav NFU and FU50; Kenwood TKM 70 and a SEA 222 single sidebands; Icom IC-M502 and IC-M504 VHF's; Standard Horizon VLH-3000 loudhailer; two Furuno GP32s; Furuno NavNet 72-mile and 36-mile radars; Furuno FCV 295 and FCV 292 sounders; Olex/ECC Globe plotter with Nobletec; Mitsubishi telephone, KVH TracPhone and Iridium satellite phone; Harris Electric watch alarm



## Alaska & Pacific

"The majority of people around here are swimming in debt."

— Nick Andrew Jr., commercial and subsistence fisherman

### Yukon eyes \$5m in relief for lagging chinook runs

Approval of disaster funds expected

Alaska's Yukon River salmon fishermen are poised to receive \$5 million in disaster relief for failing chinook salmon runs. The missing fish caused economic calamity for the region in 2008 and 2009, after commercial fishing was closed and subsistence fishing was severely restricted.

"The majority of people around here are swimming in debt," says Nick Andrew Jr., a commercial and subsistence fisherman from Marshall.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke declared the fishery a disaster earlier this year. The Senate Appropriations Com-

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