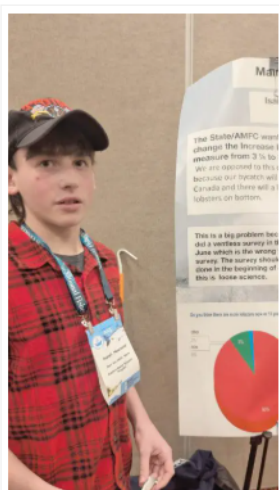


BLUE ECONOMY  
March 06, 2025

BY ANDY WEBSTER



Deer Isle-Stonington High School’s Isaiah Heanssler presents his lobster gauge display. PHOTOS BY ANDY WEBSTER

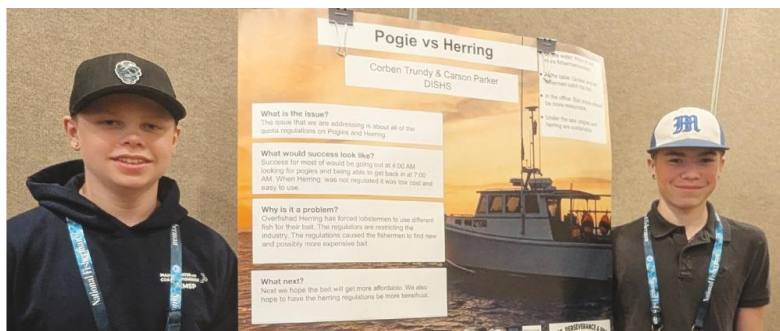
ROCKPORT—Students from Deer Isle-Stonington High School and George Stevens Academy took center stage on Friday, February 28, at the 50th annual Maine Fishermen’s Forum in Rockport to display and explain research projects they had completed as part of the Eastern Maine Skippers Program.

This year’s projects covered a range of topics, including a previously proposed lobster gauge increase, restoring a wooden rowing skiff, the future of lobster, the future of cod fishing, and the lack of young people in Maine’s scallop fishery.

For more than a decade, the Skippers Program has worked with nine public schools in Downeast Maine to teach real-life and maritime skills to students from fishing and non-fishing families.

Coordinated by the Stonington-based Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, program staff, volunteers, and mentors work with the schools to develop and teach more than 100 hours of instruction covering everything from marine ecology and business to safety and navigation.

Close to 100 students develop, research, and present highly individualized research projects as part of the program each year.

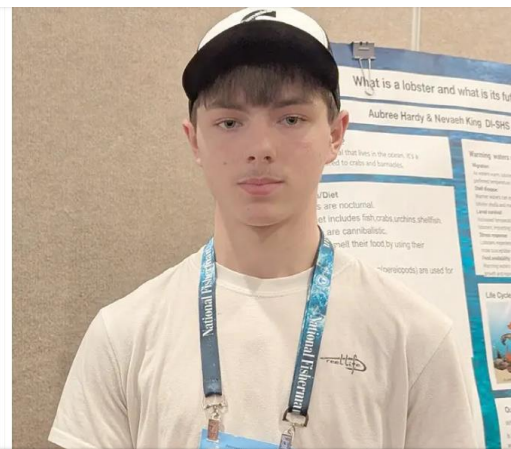


Corben Trundy and Carson Parker from Deer Isle-Stonington with their project, “Pogie vs. Herring.”

From left, Taylor Ciomei, Emma Weed and Neveah King from Deer Isle-Stonington with their display about lobster.



Wesley Trundy from Deer Isle-Stonington explores the future of ground fishing using Cod Coils, also known as slinky pots – cylindrical mesh traps that can be collapsed and easily stored on the deck of a boat.



Noah Williams, from Deer Isle-Stonington High School with a lobster gauge.



George Stevens Academy students Tristan Ciomei, left, Ethan Colson and Tighe Morse advocate for scallop licenses for younger fishermen.