



October 29, 2025

Re: Gulf of Maine Lobster Fishery

To Whom It May Concern,

East Coast Seafood Group has been an active participant in the **Gulf of Maine Lobster Fishery Improvement Project (FIP)** over the past two years, working with project partners to integrate **spatial-temporal whale-risk mapping** and lobster harvest data into our sourcing and traceability systems.

Through this process, we reviewed right whale distribution maps and harvest-area data to guide procurement decisions and strengthen sustainability across our supply chain. Our official sourcing records demonstrate a **14% reduction in Maine-sourced lobster from 2023–2024** and an additional **17% reduction year-to-date 2025**, reflecting a deliberate effort to reduce purchases from areas of higher entanglement risk.

While this sourcing shift was not our only objective, it formed part of a broader strategy to **engage our vessel partners in a gear-adaptation program** aimed at reducing whale-interaction risk. The program's immediate focus has been on **enhanced gear marking and the introduction of weak-rope and break-away systems**, serving as practical steps toward the long-term goal of enabling on-demand gear use where feasible.

East Coast Seafood has also partnered with **Greenhead Lobster** to expand participation and strengthen implementation of these gear adaptations throughout our shared fleet network.

We remain committed to continuous improvement and collaboration toward a more transparent and responsible lobster fishery.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert L. Blais', is written over a light gray background.

Robert L. Blais  
Chief Executive Officer

