

# *Creativity in the Face of Environmental Destruction*

By Sarah Bedore



## Original Project Overview–

### Original Paper: *How Northeastern Winters are Changing*

- Shortened winter seasons
- Tick increase

Sarah Bedore

Professor Quinlan

Soc-227-A

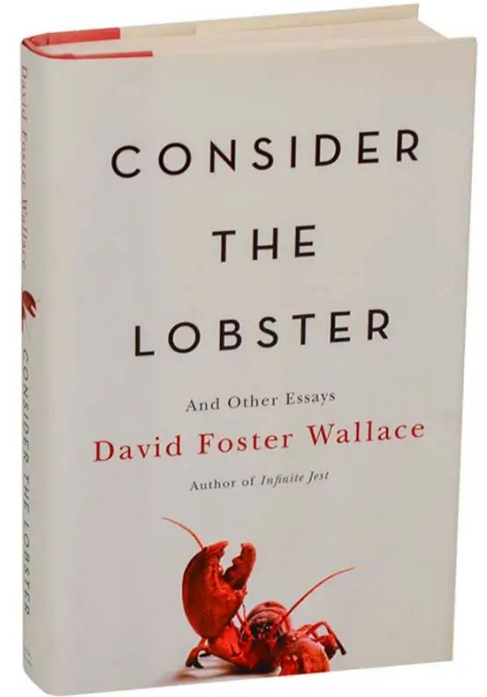
December 11, 2023

#### How Northeastern Winters are Changing

Growing up in the Northeast, I found comfort in the winter months. I looked forward to the ski season and snowy walks in the woods with my family. But as I've grown older, winter has changed; the temperatures are warmer and less snow is produced. When the weather changes, so does the environment and it's reflected throughout society. We now know this is due to climate change, and it affects every aspect of our lives.

## Inspired by David Foster Wallace's *Consider The Lobster*

- Uses personal voice to discuss destruction of environment
- Bridges the gap between personal creativity...
  - Impact on lobster community
  - Impact on industry
  - Radically rising temperatures in Gulf of Maine



<https://www.jhbooks.com/pages/books/200608/david-foster-wallace/consider-the-lobster>

I will talk about...

Essay by David Foster Wallace

Foreword by Janet Mills

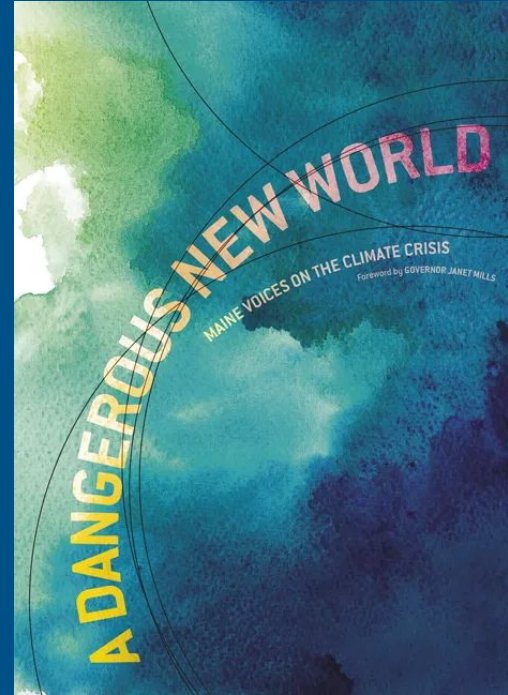
Documentary by Andy Burt

Prose by Wendy Weiger

Watercolor by Jill Pelto

Symphony by Lucas Richman

Poetry by Sherry Barker Albado



Let's consider...

- What's changing in the Maine coastal environment
- How it impacts coastal communities
- The tone in the creative responses

## The Facts, Foreword by Governor Janet Mills

- The Gulf of Maine is warming faster than any other ocean
- Average air temperature has increased by 3° F
- CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed and turned into carbonic acid in the ocean



<https://themainemonitor.org/maines-governor-born-for-hard-times-and-hard-decisions/>

## Documentary – Andy Burt

*Down to Earth Storytelling: Maine Roadtrip to the Future (2019)*

“Mainers are thinking about diversifying their businesses away from just lobstering...a risky business strategy to have all your eggs in one basket...”





Prose by Wendy Weiger

*Womb of Ice: The Maine Woods in Winter*

“...I feel an undercurrent of uneasiness.”



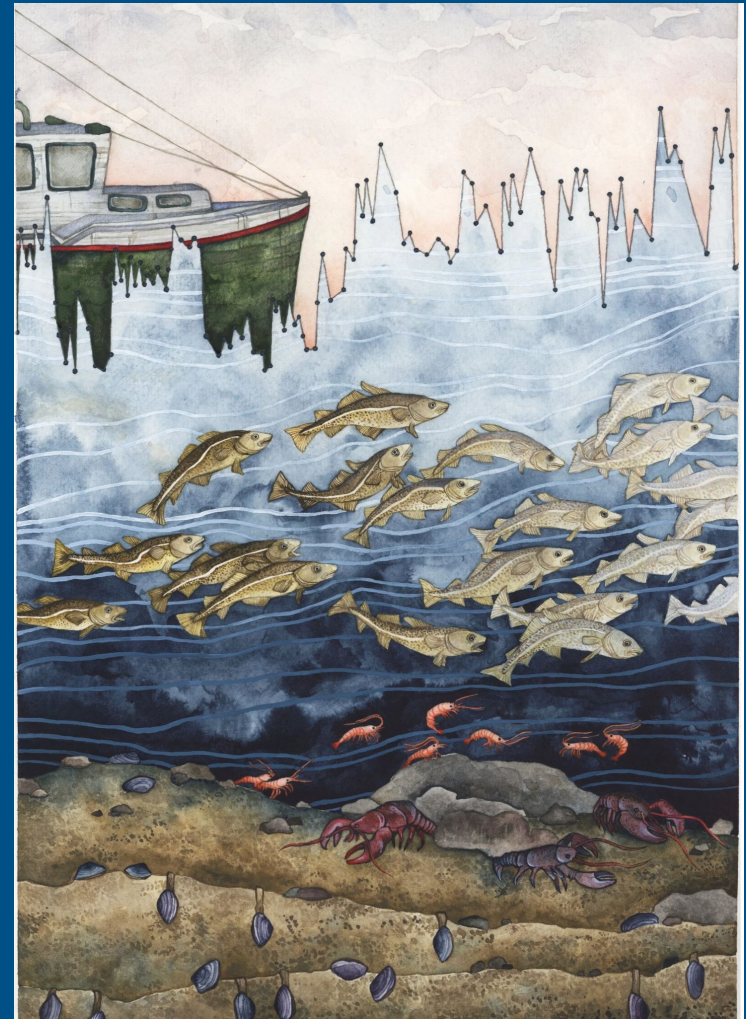
<https://www.wendyweiger.com/about-me/>



Jill Pelto: *Gulf of Maine Temperature Variability*, 2016.

This piece...

- “Creatively communicates human-environment connections”
- Incorporates education and art



# *The Warming Sea*, Directed and Composed by Lucas Richman

Lyrics –

“Have you told them?

Have you told your children the truth?

They need to know things are changing,

They must know that things will not remain as  
they were once long ago.

Do you wonder?

Have you filled their sails full of hope?

Hope lets the soar, Tides are shifting,

Seas are warming,

Up ahead there's no turning back,

When there's no shore.

Teach them that hope begins with truth.

Hope begins with truth, they need to know,

So give them hope and give them life!”



Poetry by Sherry Barker Albado

*Our Witching Hour*

“The first step is taking accountability....”

- Human nature conflicts with the Earth
- “Nature isn't inherently pristine or eternal...”
- We are just as vulnerable as our planet



<https://cbsaustin.com/news/nation-world/data-shows-maine-storms-have-erased-over-100-feet-of-coastline-dunes>

Can we create possibilities to preserve traditions with respect to  
reimagining a more sustainable symbiotic relationship?

Yes, and it's noticeable right here at UNE  
with our Kelp harvest program!



Image courtesy of Megan Letendre, Associate Program Coordinator Center for North Atlantic Studies

Rachel Carson, 1907 – 1964

Born in Springdale, Pennsylvania

Her mission was to protect fragile ecosystems,  
especially coastal and marine environments.

“The more clearly we can focus our attention  
on the wonders and realities of the universe about  
us, the less taste we shall have for destruction”



<https://blog.response.restoration.noaa.gov/rachel-carson-biologist-writer-role-model>



# Be Accountable, Take Action!



<https://www.coa.edu/live/news/1694-new-climate-change-activists-young-people-in-maine>

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