Can Lobstering Annihilate Waste

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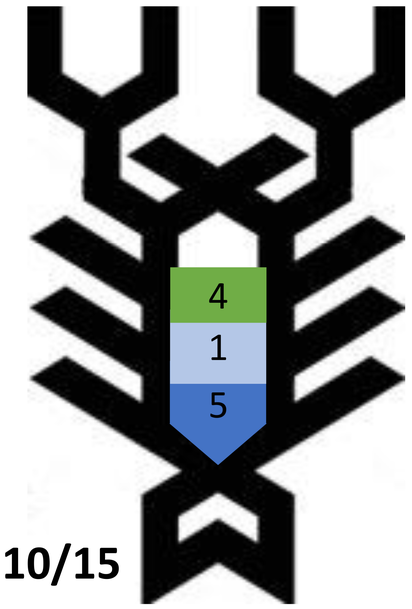
The Big Problem

The lobstering industry in Maine produces **3,515,625 cubic inches** of plastic per year. This is due to hatches in lobster traps that are lost due to weather or boats, and cause plastic to drift off and pollute the environment

Diagram Key:

- Cost
- Eco-Friendliness
- Strength

(PLA) Polylactic Acid



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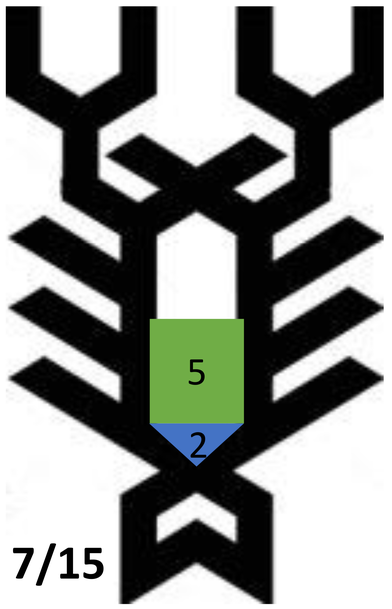
(LDPE) Low Density Polyethylene



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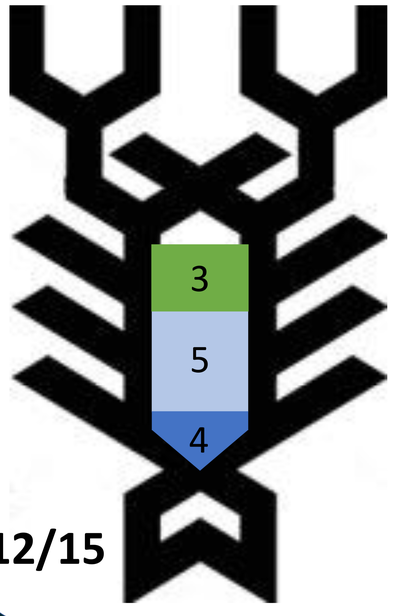
(PHB) Polyhydroxybuterate



12/15

Solution

Our Material scoring breakdown gave us a solution material of PHB, Polyhydroxybuterate with a final score of 12/15. This would be the most green and affective solution.

Methods

1. Find a biodegradable replacement for plastic escape vents
2. Create a design
3. Research laws and regulations for lobstering in Maine
4. Identify communities that have already attempted to replace plastic

Project Objective

Decrease waste generated by the lobstering community by developing an appropriate and biodegradable escape hatch to replace the existing plastic ones

References

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FACT SHEET Polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA) biodegradable escape panel (biopanel) for crab, lobster, and fish traps. (n.d.). Retrieved November 5, 2021, from