

Notice to Fish Harvesters

June 5, 2023
EKME: 4326758

2023 CONSERVATION AND HARVESTING PLAN FOR THE ROCK CRAB FISHERY IN LOBSTER FISHING AREA 24

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (PE) – June 5, 2023 – The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Gulf Region is announcing the management measures for the rock crab fishery in Lobster Fishing Area (LFA 24) in 2023.

Fishing Season:

The season in LFA 24 will open at 6:00 a.m. on July 5, 2023 and will remain open until October 26, 2023.

Other management measures which will continue to apply in 2023:

Biodegradable

Panels: The use of modified biodegradables mechanisms on all traps, including modified lobster traps, is mandatory. Please refer to your licence conditions for specifications on these biodegradable mechanisms.

Data entry: The licence holder is responsible to enter into an agreement with a dockside monitoring company for data entry of catch and effort information; a condition to this effect is included in all licences.

Logbooks: Crab Logbooks/landing reports are mandatory and must be completed as stipulated in licence conditions.

Dockside Monitoring

Program: All of the catch must be weighed in kilograms at one decimal point on an approved scale.

Number of traps: Commercial licences - 150 traps.
First Nations communal commercial licences – 150 traps.

Catch limitation: Commercial licences – 20,000 kg.
Communal commercial licences – 20,000 kg.

Minimum size: Only male rock crabs, with a minimum carapace width of 102 mm, may be retained.

DFO will continue to apply the exploitation principle that prioritizes the rock crab fishery as follows: by-catch in the lobster fishery, bait for the lobster fishery and then directed rock crab fishery.

For more information:

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