

2026 LFA 25 SCIENTIFIC ROCK CRAB TRAP SURVEY PROTOCOL AND REQUIREMENTS

as per DFO contract

The PEI Fishermen's Association is seeking one (1) PEI participant from LFA 25 for a scientific, fisheries-independent rock crab trap survey in 2026. A registration and draw will be administered by the PEIFA to determine the participant. The participating fisher must be able to demonstrate experience in the rock crab fishery.

Registration Dates/Times: 8:30 AM Thursday, April 2nd, to 4:30 PM Thursday, April 9th, 2026

Location: Farm Centre, 420 University Avenue, Suite 102, Charlottetown

Fee: No fee for registration

How to Register: Fishers can register online at www.peifa.org by clicking the 'LFA 25 Scientific Rock Crab Trap Survey' link under 'Registrations & Renewals' or contact the PEIFA office to register by phone or in person.

Required Information: Captain's Name, Phone #, FIN #, Vessel Name, VRN #

Eligibility: The participating fisher must be a member in good standing with the PEIFA and be available for the work period of either June 15th-19th or June 22nd-26th, 2025 (DFO determined).

The Draw will be held on April 10th, 2026 after the completion of the Registration.

Interested individuals can find details below or contact Melanie Giffin at 902-330-4466 or melanie@peifa.org

Contract Area of Operation

LFA 25

Work will take place over five consecutive days: either June 15–19 or June 22–26, 2026, pending DFO confirmation and weather conditions. The vessel must be available to begin at 6:00 a.m. on the first day of the selected period

The work will be conducted in LFA 25, in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence. The work will be completed as day trips. The berthing port for loading and unloading the vessel at the beginning and at the end of each day and at the end of this project will be in Miminegash, PEI.



Work Requirements

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada requires the Contractor to provide the following for **LFA 25**:

- Complete up to five days of rock crab trap fishing at up to 45 pre-determined sampling stations, over a five-day period. A maximum of 45 sampling stations will be predetermined and presented to the Contractor prior to the survey by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). The number of fishing days will be weather dependent and determined by the chief scientist in consultation with the captain.
- On the first day of work, deploy one scientific rock crab trap, rope and buoys at each predetermined station according to the rock crab trap survey protocol.
- On up to three subsequent days of work, retrieve, empty and re-deploy the traps in the same location.
- On the last day of work, retrieve and empty the traps.
- The traps will be similar size as standard commercial rock crab traps but will have a smaller mesh and no escape. The traps will be provided by DFO.
- At-sea activities include trap-fishing, biological measurements of captured rock crab of all sizes and of by-catch species (sorting, counting and total weight of by-catch species or species group).
- Personnel (**one captain and at least two (2) crew members**) must be qualified and experienced at deploying and retrieving rock crab traps and must assist DFO scientific representatives. At least one (1) member of the crew must be available to assist the DFO

representatives when measuring crab and when collecting biological and physical data for the entire duration of the survey.

- The scientific authority from DFO on board can collect and conserve rock crabs and other marine species for biological studies.

Vessel Requirements

- The contractor shall ensure that the vessel is seaworthy, the main engine, equipment and fishing gear are in good operating condition. The vessel must have sufficient room for the work planned and be equipped with adequate mechanical and electronic navigation equipment as well as the survival equipment set out in the Canada Shipping Act.
- Maintain, throughout the contract period, all certificates, lifesaving equipment and apparatus as required by The Canada Shipping Act and pursuant regulations.
- The vessel will provide fuel for trips.
- The vessel and crew will be ready on twenty-four (24) hours' notice within the contract period.

Note: A visit of the vessel by DFO scientific members could take place if deemed necessary.

Master and Crew Requirements

- **A captain and at least two (2) qualified and experienced crew members** will be required during the entire study who are able to assist DFO scientific personnel during sampling and data collection. DFO representatives should not be included when determining crew requirements.
- The **Captain must provide bait** throughout the course of the scientific survey. Bait will consist of **five (5) pounds of frozen herring per submerged trap per day**. In the event that frozen herring is not available, another bait (e.g. frozen mackerel) may be used provided that the Scientific Authority has been consulted beforehand.
- The crew and captain will be able to repair traps on board the vessel and at the wharf (repair materials will be provided by DFO). These crew members must be available for the entire survey. **If the contractor is unable to provide the services of any specific individual identified in the contract, it must provide a replacement with similar qualifications and experience** and give a minimum 2 week notice to the contracting authority with proof of equivalency.

Additional requirements and conditions

- Although the captain is in charge at all times, he/she shall comply with the instructions of DFO scientific authority provided the safety of the vessel and the crew members is not compromised.
- The captain and crew members must provide a healthy work environment, **smoke free (inside the vessel)** and respectful. Any physical, verbal or psychological harassment from the captain, crew members or contractor will not be tolerated.

- The captain of the vessel must keep a daily log of operations and activities on board the vessel, both at sea and in port, and shall allow access to the log by the DFO scientific authority at all times.
- The captain shall provide all possible cooperation and assistance to the DFO scientific authority with regards to the gathering, preparation and updating of documents concerning the specific sites sampled and the species and quantities of fish and invertebrates caught.
- **No commercial fishing activities shall be conducted during the period** set aside for the study. The captain may not take advantage of the research survey to do any commercial fishing.

Additional documentation/proof required from Captain who wins the registration draw

- Vessel Charter Application form (provided by DFO and to be filled out)
- The proposal must contain a statement of the name under which the vessel is legally incorporated and a statement from the Canadian foreign ownership firm, if applicable.
- A captain and a minimum of two crew members must be available to assist the DFO scientific team for sampling during the entire study on twenty-four (24) hour notice.
- **The captain must have a minimum of 3 seasons of experience** in commercial trap fishing (lobster or, rock crab or snow crab) in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Contractor must include the start and end dates including the years and where the experience was obtained.
- The captain must have a minimum of 3 seasons of experience in steering and operating a vessel near the study area in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Contractor must include the start and end dates including years and where the experience was obtained.
- At least two crew members (other than the captain) must have a minimum of one season of experience in handling, repairing and maintaining traps.
- Photo proof required:
 - The vessel must include a **grapple** and a **hydraulic hauler with a boom**.
 - The vessel must include a **sorting/grading table**.
 - The vessel must include a **sheltered area with a table and seating**.
 - The vessel must possess a minimum of one **toilet**.
 - The vessel must be equipped with a VHF **radio** and a CB radio in good operating condition and approved by Transport Canada, a **sounder, a plotter, a digital GPS**, a Novatec navigation system or its equivalent, and radar.
 - The **life raft** must have a minimum capacity for **6 people**.
 - The vessel must be equipped with a portable **fire extinguisher**.
- Photo or copy of certificate required:
 - The bidder must provide a copy of the Vessel Registration.
 - The captain must have a Small Vessel Operator's Proficiency certificate or equivalent.