



## **Notice to PEI Harvesters – PEIFA LFA 25 SIZE AT MATURITY PROJECT 2026**

### **CAPTAINS/VESSELS FOR HIRE**

This project is a collaboration between the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association (PEIFA). The project's goal is to complete the first size at onset maturity (SOM<sub>50</sub>) estimate for lobster in Lobster Fishing Area 25 (LFA 25). In future years, this estimate will act as a baseline allowing for industry stakeholders to monitor for changes and support the sustainable management of lobster fisheries. Data from this project may also be used by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Canada in stock assessments for lobster in the Gulf region.

**Only PEI harvesters with an active lobster license for lobster fishing area (LFA) 25 are eligible for this project.**

#### **The PEIFA is seeking 1 Captain for the 2026 LFA 25 Size at Maturity Project:**

The hired Captain (1 maximum) will bait, set, and fish a maximum of 100 lobster traps over the course of several days (exact number yet to be determined). The selected Captains will work closely with PEIFA technicians and biologists to ensure that project objectives are met. This project will take place between June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**The following is a list of details/requirements for the participants interested in the project (details are listed on the PEIFA website):**

- **Payment: \$2600.00/per trip**
- **Complete up to four days of lobster fishing within the sampling area.**
- **On the first day of work, deploy lobster traps, rope, and buoys throughout the sampling area based on the Captain's and PEIFA Staff's discretion.**
- **On up to three subsequent days of work, retrieve, empty and re-deploy the traps.**
- **On the last day of work, retrieve and empty the traps.**
- **The captain shall provide traps the same size as standard commercial lobster traps, but most will have the escapes closed off. The captain will provide the traps (100).**
- **At-sea activities include trap-fishing, biological samples and measurements of captured lobsters of all sizes.**
- **The PEIFA will supply technicians and biologists for all on-water activities.**
- **Personnel (one Captain and at least one (1) crew member) must be qualified and experienced at deploying and retrieving commercial fishing traps (i.e. lobster, rock crab, snow crab), hold an active LFA 25 lobster license and must assist PEIFA staff.**
- **Vessel is required to meet all standard Transport Canada requirements.**

- The Captain will require third-party liability insurance on his vessel (in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 per occurrence on his vessel).
- The Captain will be required to sign a contract with the PEIFA (agreeing on protocol, rate of pay and insurance).
- A draw of qualified applicants will be made if more than 1 person applies.
- The Captain must be willing to move their vessel to a port within the study area.
- No commercial fishing activities shall be conducted during the period set aside for the project. The captain may not take advantage of the research survey to do any commercial fishing.
- The Captain shall ensure that the vessel is seaworthy, the main engine, equipment and fishing gear are in good operating condition.
- The Captain will ensure bait is provided.

A registration and draw will be administered by the PEIFA to determine the project participants.

**Registration Dates/Times:** 9:00 AM May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 to 4:30 PM May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

**Fee:** No fee for registration

**How to Register:** Fishers can register online at [www.peifa.org](http://www.peifa.org) by clicking the 'LFA 25 Size at Maturity Registration 2026' link under 'New and Events' or contact the PEIFA office to register by phone or in person.

**Required Information:** Captain's Name, Vessel Name, VRN, FIN #, Homeport, Email Address, LFA 25 Lobster License #, and Phone #.

**Eligibility:** To be considered for this project you must hold a lobster license in LFA 25 and be a PEIFA member in good standing.

**The Draw will be held immediately after the completion of the Registration, Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.**

Any questions on the project details, please contact Melanie Giffin, Marine Biologist with the PEIFA @ 902-330-4466 or [melanie@peifa.org](mailto:melanie@peifa.org)