



Notice to PEI LFA 25 Lobster Fishers

## **CAPTAINS/VESSELS FOR HIRE**

The PEIFA is seeking up to 14 Captains for the 2023 LFA 25 Post-Season Gear Retrieval Program.

Duties include assisting in the gear retrieval activities in priority areas within and throughout LFA 25. Participants will use their own personal grappling equipment for the purpose of locating lost fishing gear. Captains will be provided with a section 52 permit, which will allow gear to be taken on board and moved to designated wharves and secure storage. Captains may be required to relocate to another LFA 25 PEI harbour at their own expense. Gear retrieval will take place on the 3 best weather days between October 16<sup>th</sup> to October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Captains will need to sign a contract with the PEIFA and provide proof of marine insurance. To participate in the program Captains' must hold a Fall Lobster License in LFA 25 on PEI. Two crew members will also be required per vessel. Remote Operative Vehicle (ROV) equipment may also be trialed on board participant vessels during gear retrieval activities. Captains will be required to fill out basic log sheet information for each trip and for gear retrieved. Payment for Captains will be an all-inclusive rate of \$300/hour for 12 hours, including fuel, crew wages, etc.

A separate registration will be posted in the coming weeks for those interested in participating in the 'volunteer' gear retrieval program. The volunteer program covers local fishing grounds and is completed from the Captain's respective harbour without the requirement to travel long distances or relocate. A small per-diem will be issued to the volunteers with a minimum number of at-sea hours that day to assist with fuel and other expenses.

### REGISTRATION DETAILS:

Registration dates: Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> 830 am to 430 pm, Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Fee: No fee to register

How to register: Online or by phone. The online link is [www.peifa.org](http://www.peifa.org) and click the tab "LFA 25 Gear Retrieval Project" to enter registration information. To register by phone, call the PEIFA @ 902-566-4050.

Draw: A draw of qualified applicants will be made if more than 14 people apply.

Registrations after 430 pm, Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, will NOT be accepted.

For more details on the requirements of the project, please visit [www.peifa.org](http://www.peifa.org) or contact Kelsey MacDonald 902-330-3891 or Laura Ramsay at 902-393-2281.

The following are a list of details/qualifications for the participants in the LFA 25 post-season gear retrieval program:

- The goal of the project is to perform a focused grapnel survey and gear retrieval activity of priority areas for the purpose of retrieving lost, abandoned, and discarded fishing gear in PEI coastal environments after the spring lobster fishing season. Remote Operating Vehicle (ROV) equipment may also be trialed during gear retrieval activities.
- Captain must hold a valid LFA 25 lobster license.
- Captain must be reliable and experienced in grappling for gear.
- Captain must have their own grappling equipment. There are a limited number of grappling units available from the PEIFA for use for the project which Captain's can request.
- Captain must be available for the 3 best weather days between October 16<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
- The vessel needs to meet all standard Transport Canada requirements.
- The Captain requires third-party liability insurance on their vessel (in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 per occurrence on their vessel).
- The vessel is attached to the license and must remain the same for the duration of the project – the fisher cannot be active in any fisheries during the retrieval dates.
- The Captain will be required to sign a contract with the PEIFA, agreeing to the a) protocol outlined by DFO's Ghost Gear Fund and the DFO Section 52 permit, b) rate of pay, and c) insurance.
- Captains will need to provide at least 2 crew members, always ensuring the safety of all those on board.
- Captain must be willing to work closely with project staff including providing valuable feedback and troubleshooting throughout the project. A detailed log sheet will need to be completed and submitted for each trip.
- A draw of qualified applicants will be made if more than 14 persons apply.
- A rate of \$300/hour will be paid for services under this project with the aim of 12-hours at sea per day. This would be an all-inclusive price to the Captain including 2 crew, fuel, docking fees, insurance, etc.
- Captain is required to be within one-hour of sail time to the designated gear retrieval area particularly for Day 1 of retrieval activity. Sail time beyond that one-hour timeframe will be at the Captain's expense. Any docking fees associated with the project are also at the Captain's expense. There are 3 designated gear retrieval areas in 2023 LFA 25 post-season. (1. LFA 23/24/25 line, 2. Middle of LFA 25 between Miminigash and Cape Egmont and 3. LFA 25/26A line). If Captain is asked to relocate during the gear retrieval activities (Day 2 or 3), travel time will be covered by the program upon approval of the project coordinator.

