

Notice to Fish Harvesters

July 25, 2017

EKME 3795744

LOBSTER CONSERVATION HARVESTING PLAN - LOBSTER FISHING AREA (LFA) 25 - NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2017 AND BEYOND

Moncton – The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Gulf Region, wishes to advise industry that the opening date for the lobster fishery in Lobster Fishing Area (LFA) 25 will be 6:00 a.m., Tuesday August 8, 2017, weather permitting. The last day of fishing will be October 9, 2017. Unless indicated otherwise, existing management measures remain in place.

Minimum Carapace Size (Length)

As previously announced on May 20, 2016, the minimum lobster carapace size (length) will be increased to 75 mm in 2017 and 77 mm in 2018.

Height and Length of Escape Mechanisms

The escape mechanism is required to be adjusted according to the minimum legal carapace length (see table 1 and table 2). For LFA 25, the size of the escape mechanism in the licence conditions will remain unchanged through 2017 as announced in 2016 (minimum of either 42 mm in height by 127 mm in length or 41 mm in height by 254 mm in length). As announced in 2016, the adjustment of the height of the escape opening could be made anytime between 2016 and 2018; however, for the 2018 fishing season, the licence conditions will identify the escape mechanism to be a minimum of either 44 mm in height by 127 mm in length or 43 mm in height by 254 mm in length.

Table 1: Escape Mechanism

Length of escape opening between 127 mm and less than 254 mm	
Minimum carapace length	Height of escape opening
>71 mm to 73 mm	42 mm
>73 mm to 76 mm	43 mm
>76 mm	44 mm
Length of escape opening equal to or greater than 254 mm	
Minimum carapace length	Height of escape opening
>71 mm to 73 mm	41 mm
>73 mm to 76 mm	42 mm
>76 mm to 80 mm	43 mm
>80 mm	44 mm

Table 2: Major Management Measures in 2017

LFA	Minimum Carapace Length (mm)	Maximum Length Females (mm)	Maximum Number of Traps	Minimum Number of Traps per Line	Maximum Hoop Size (mm)
25	75	115	240 in PEI 250 in NB 225 in NS	n/a	152

Logbooks

Logbooks shall continue to be submitted on a monthly basis. Further logbook details will be available in your lobster licence conditions. The list of suppliers is available at the following Internet address: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/sdc-cps/nir-nei/log-suppliers-eng.htm#gulf>

Daily Closed Time

There will be no daily closed time for the 2017 fishing season in LFA 25, including in the transit corridors. Prior to the 2018 season, DFO will evaluate all proposals brought forward at that time.

New Management Measures to be Implemented for the 2017 Fishing Season:

Maximum Female Carapace Size (Length)

The maximum female carapace length will be increased to 115 mm. The lobster licence conditions will indicate that if the lobster is a female lobster of a length of 115 mm or greater, it shall be returned to the water immediately in a manner that causes it the least harm.

Before You Go Fishing

The Department has assembled a list of requirements and documents harvesters will need before they start fishing. This list is available at: <http://www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/Before-start-fishing>.

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