

# *Notice to Fish Harvesters*

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April 13, 2017

EKME 3760086

## **LOBSTER CONSERVATION HARVESTING PLAN - NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2017 AND BEYOND (LFA 23, 24, 26A AND 26B)**

**Moncton** – Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Gulf Region, announces the opening of the fishery and new management measures that will be in place in the Southern Gulf Lobster Fishing Areas (LFAs) 23, 24, 26A and 26B in 2017. Unless indicated otherwise, existing management measures remain in place. A separate Notice to Fish Harvesters will be issued at a later date for LFA 25.

### Minimum carapace size

As previously announced in 2016, the minimum carapace size in LFA 23D will increase to 76 mm in 2017.

The minimum carapace size in LFA 26B South will remain at 81 mm in 2017 and will increase to 82.5 mm in 2018.

### Restrictions on the movement of lobster licences

On April 27, 2012, DFO implemented restrictions on the movement of lobster licences in: 26A-1 (Gulf Nova Scotia only), 26A-3, 26B South and 26B North. Fishing enterprises in these areas can only be reissued to other fish harvesters whose homeport is located within the same management area. These restrictions will be maintained for the 2017 season. Additionally, in LFA 24, restrictions by conditions of license on ports of landing in Prince Edward Island (PEI) between Hardys Channel and Seacow Pond, as well as between Malpeque and North Lake will be maintained upon license reissuance.

### Logbooks

Logbooks shall be submitted on a monthly basis. Further logbook details are 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 daily close time from 9:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. in LFA 23 starting in 2017, meaning that the fishing vessel cannot leave port to commence a fishing trip prior to 4:00 a.m. and must terminate the fishing trip on the same day prior to 9:00 p.m. Further details are available in your lobster licence conditions.

### Six traps per line

The area for the six traps per line restriction adjacent to PEI in LFA 26A-1 has been extended. Please refer to your lobster licence conditions for the exact coordinates.

### Height and Length of Escape Mechanisms

The height of the escape mechanism need to be adjusted according to the minimum legal carapace size in effect in each LFA (see table 1 below for height of escape mechanism and table 2 at the end of this notice for carapace size).

Table 1

<b>Length of escape opening between 127 mm and less than 254 mm</b>	
<b>Minimum carapace size</b>	<b>Height of escape opening</b>
70 mm to 71 mm	40 mm
>71 mm to 73 mm	42 mm
>73 mm to 76 mm	43 mm
>76 mm	44 mm
<b>Length of escape opening equal to or greater than 254 mm</b>	
<b>Minimum carapace size</b>	<b>Height of escape opening</b>
70 mm to 71 mm	40 mm
>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

### Opening Dates in 2017

The fishery in LFA 23 will open April 30 until June 30. To avoid Sunday openings, the fishery in LFA 24, 26A and 26B South will open April 29 until June 29, with the exception of a portion of LFA 26A-1 from Point Prim to Victoria, PEI that will open May 6 and close July 6. LFA 26B North will open May 6 and close July 6. In the following years, LFA 26B North will open May 7 and close July 7.

In LFA 24, 26A and 26B, if the fishery cannot open on the scheduled Saturday, the fishery in LFA 24, 26A and 26B South will be from Monday May 1 until June 30, with the exception of a portion of LFA 26A-1 from Point Prim to Victoria, PEI that will open on Monday May 8 and close on July 7 and LFA 26B North will open on May 8 and close on July 7.

The opening of the fishery on targeted opening dates is subject to weather conditions.

### Transit Corridors

There will be an approximate 200 m wide transit corridor open by Variation Order in LFA 25 from the boundary line of LFA 23/25 to Pointe Sapin, New Brunswick during the LFA 25 closed season allowing fish harvesters to transport their catches through that area (corridor) to reach their homeport and avoid using the smack boat. There will also be a transit corridor open in LFA 23D and one open in LFA 24 during the Fall LFA 25 season to transport their catches through the corridor. For that reason, there will be a validity period added to the LFA 23D, LFA 24 and

LFA 25 licences. The season for each pertinent LFA remains those in the Fisheries Regulations or announced in the Variation Order. A Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) is required if using the transit corridor.

The coordinates for the various corridors are included in pertinent Variation Orders and/or licence conditions. The coordinates for the corridor in LFA 24 are unchanged from 2016.

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>

**For information:**

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**Table 2: Major Management Measures in 2017  
Lobster Fishing Areas 23, 24, 26A, 26B**

	Minimum carapace (mm)*	Window /maximum size females (mm)	Maximum number of traps	Minimum number of traps per line**	Maximum hoop size (mm)	Other
23A	76	115-129	300	n/a	152	More information to be provided in separate Notice
23B	76	115-129	300	n/a	152	
23C	76	115-129	300	In a portion of 23C : 3 traps	152	
23D	76	115-129	300	In a portion of 23D: 3 traps	152	
24	72	115-129	300	n/a	n/a	
26A-1	72	115-129	272 in PEI 280 in GNS	In a portion of 26A-1: 6 traps  26A-1(GNS fishers only): 5 traps	n/a	
26A-2	76	115-129	255 and 275***	6 traps	152	
26A-3	76	115-129	250	2 traps	n/a	
26B South	81	n/a	250	n/a	n/a	
26B North	82.5	n/a	250	5 traps	152	Closure of Cheticamp Harbour.

\* see table 1 for height of escape mechanism corresponding to the minimum carapace size in effect

\*\*As defined by licence conditions

\*\*\* Commercial licence holders will be fishing 255 traps/ Some Communal Commercial licence holders remain at 275