



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

OCT 5 2007

AMERICAN LOBSTER FINAL RULE
~Small Entity Compliance Guide~
Offshore Area 3 - New Federal Regulations

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recently published in the Federal Register a Final Rule regarding Federal American lobster management in the Exclusive Economic Zone, consistent with recommendations for Federal action in Addenda II, III, IV and XI to Amendment 3 of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. Subsequent to the publication of a Proposed Rule in the Federal Register on June 20, 2007 (72 FR 33955), this Final Rule implements new Federal lobster regulations to facilitate lobster broodstock protection and trap fishing effort reduction in **Lobster Conservation Management Area 3 (Area 3)** as summarized in this compliance guide.

Effective ~~NOV 4 2007~~ :

Increase lobster minimum carapace length (gauge) in Area 3

NOV 4 2007

- The first of two 1/32 inch (0.08 cm) gauge increases is effective _____, increasing the legal minimum size of lobster in Area 3 to 3 15/32 inches (8.81 cm);

5% Trap Allocation Reduction – See Column 3, Table 1 on reverse side of this page

- 5% trap allocation reduction for all trap vessels eligible to fish in Area 3.

Effective July 1, 2008:

Gauge Increase

- The second of two 1/32 inch (0.08 cm) gauge increases is effective on July 1, 2008, culminating in a legal minimum carapace length for lobster in Area 3 of 3 1/2 inches (8.89 cm);

5% Trap Allocation Reduction – See Column 4, Table 1 on reverse side of this page

- A second 5% trap allocation reduction for all Area 3 trap vessels.

Effective July 1, 2009:

2.5% Trap Allocation Reduction - See Column 5, Table 1 on reverse side of this page

- A 2.5% trap allocation reduction for all Area 3 trap vessels.

Effective July 1, 2010:

Increase in Lobster Trap Escape Vent Size for Area 3

- An increase in the Area 3 lobster trap escape vent size to 2 1/16 inches X 5 3/4 inches rectangular (5.24 X 14.61 cm) or two circular vents at 2 11/16 inches diameter (6.83 cm) by July 1, 2010;

2.5% Trap Allocation Reduction- See Column 6, Table 1 on reverse side of this page

- A final trap allocation reduction of 2.5% for all Area 3 trap vessels.

The Final Rule and Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis prepared for this regulatory action are available via the Northeast Regional Office web site at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>. Visit the web site and click on *Hot News* to access the documents. Or, you may request the documents by telephone at (978) 281-9327, or in writing to Harold Mears, Director, State, Federal and Constituent Programs Office, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

Attachment: Trap Reduction Schedule (on back of this page).



Table 1. Area 3 Lobster Trap Reduction Schedule, 2007 – 2010.

HISTORIC Trap Allocation	Year 2006 Trap Allocation	Year 1 5% Trap Reduction Effective November 2007	Year 2 5% Trap Reduction Effective July 1, 2008	Year 3 2.5% Trap Reduction Effective July 1, 2009	Year 4 2.5% Trap Reduction Effective July 1, 2010
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6
200	200	190	181	176	172
240	240	228	217	211	206
250	250	238	226	220	214
264	264	251	238	232	226
300	300	285	271	264	257
320	320	304	289	282	275
325	325	309	293	286	279
360	360	342	325	317	309
370	370	352	334	326	317
400	400	380	361	352	343
450	450	428	406	396	386
480	480	456	433	422	412
500	500	475	451	440	429
590	590	561	532	519	506
600	600	570	542	528	515
700	700	665	632	616	601
720	720	684	650	634	618
768	768	730	693	676	659
800	800	760	722	704	686
883	883	839	797	777	758
900	900	855	812	792	772
930	930	884	839	818	798
1000	1000	950	903	880	858
1004	1004	954	906	883	861
1020	1020	969	921	898	875
1100	1100	1045	993	968	944
1150	1150	1093	1038	1012	987
1170	1170	1112	1056	1030	1004
1200-1499	1200	1140	1083	1056	1030
1500-1599	1276	1212	1152	1123	1095
1600-1699	1352	1284	1220	1190	1160
1700-1799	1417	1346	1279	1247	1216
1800-1899	1482	1408	1338	1304	1271
1900-1999	1549	1472	1398	1363	1329
2000-2099	1616	1535	1458	1422	1386
2100-2199	1674	1590	1511	1473	1436
2200-2299	1732	1645	1563	1524	1486
2300-2399	1789	1700	1615	1574	1535
2400-2499	1845	1753	1665	1623	1583
2500-2599	1897	1802	1712	1669	1628
2600-2699	1949	1852	1759	1715	1672
2700-2799	2000	1900	1805	1760	1716
2800-2899	2050	1948	1850	1804	1759
2900-2999	2100	1995	1895	1848	1802
3000-3099	2150	2043	1940	1892	1845
3100-3199	2209	2099	1994	1944	1895
>3199	2267	2154	2046	1995	1945