



JUN 18 2010

**NOTICE TO FEDERAL AMERICAN LOBSTER PERMIT HOLDERS FISHING IN THE
 OUTER CAPE COD MANAGEMENT AREA AND OFFSHORE AREA 3**

New Maximum Size and V-Notch Measures Effective July 1, 2010

This notice is to inform you that, beginning July 1, 2010, new broodstock lobster management measures will become effective in the Outer Cape Cod Lobster Management Area (Outer Cape Area) and in Offshore Lobster Management Area 3 (Area 3). These new broodstock measures are contained in a final rule published in the Federal Register on July 29, 2009 (74 FR 37530). The final rule supports the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s (Commission) Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster (ISFMP) and responds specifically to the Commission’s recommendations for Federal action in Addenda X and XI to Amendment 3 of the ISFMP. The broodstock measures for other areas affected by this action (Areas 2, 4, 5, and 6) are already in effect, as are the mandatory dealer reporting requirements.

Maximum Carapace Length Requirements in the Outer Cape Area and Area 3

Effective July 1, 2010, the **maximum carapace length** (maximum size) requirements for all lobsters harvested in the Outer Cape Area and Area 3 will be **6 ¾ inches**.

Revision of the Lobster V-notch Definition for the Outer Cape Area

Effective July 1, 2010, a new definition of a standard v-notch lobster will take effect for female lobster caught in the Outer Cape Area. This definition is consistent with that already in practice in Areas 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, which took effect on August 28, 2009.

The new definition of a standard v-notch is **“any notch or indentation at least as deep as 1/8-inch, with or without setal hairs.”** Accordingly, effective July 1, 2010, no vessel, owner, or operator issued a Federal limited access American lobster permit, fishing in or electing to fish in the EEZ Outer Cape Area, may land, harvest, or possess any female lobster possessing a standard v-shaped notch.

Table 1. Summary of New Federal Lobster Management Regulations

Lobster Management Area	Effective Date	Maximum Carapace Length	v-notch*
Area 3	July 1, 2010	6 ¾ inches	1/8 inch
Outer Cape Area	through June 30, 2010	Unrestricted	¼ inch
	July 1, 2010	6 ¾ inches	1/8 inch

*The 1/8-inch standard is “... any notch or indentation at least as deep as 1/8-inch, with or without setal hairs.”
 The ¼-inch v-notch standard is “...a straight-sided triangular cut at least ¼-inch in depth and tapering to a point, without setal hairs.”

Copies of the Final Rule and supporting documents are available on the Northeast Regional Office web site at www.nero.noaa.gov. If you have questions, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9144.

