



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Jonah Crab Fishery Participants

Establishment of a Control Date in the Jonah Crab Fishery

Effective Date: June 2, 2015

We published a notice setting June 2, 2015 as the new control date for the Jonah crab fishery. This control date was set at the request of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. We are notifying you that the Commission is considering an action that may affect future participation in the Jonah crab fishery. Jonah crab landings history and fishery participation after the control date may be treated differently by the Commission in the draft Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Jonah Crab. The Commission could also consider using qualification criteria that do not use the control date or take no action to the control participation in the Jonah crab fishery.

We intend for this control date to discourage speculative entry and investment in the Jonah crab fishery.

Frequently Asked Questions

When will this control date be used?	The Commission has initiated a draft Plan to control effort in the Jonah crab fishery. This Plan will be available for review and public comment during the summer of 2015. The Commission is expected to select management measures and approve the Plan in August 2015.
Will this affect my access to the Jonah crab fishery?	This control date, by itself, does not affect your ability to harvest Jonah crab. If the Commission approves a future action, it may or may not affect your participation in the Jonah crab fishery. We encourage you to participate in the public hearings and provide comment on the development of this action.
How could it affect my ability to harvest Jonah crab?	If the Commission limits participants in the fishery, you may need a permit to harvest Jonah crab. The Commission intends the control date to discourage speculative entry into the Jonah crab fishery while the Commission finalizes measures. The Commission may recommend that participation in the fishery and/or a specified amount of landings before the control date are required to obtain a future Jonah crab permit. You do not need to take action at this time.
What do I need to do?	Find and keep all documents associated with your participation in the Jonah crab fishery, including dealer slips/receipts and logbook pages from trips on which you landed Jonah crab. The Commission may use any range of fishing years in a future action, so you should preserve any and all Jonah crab-related documents.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.