



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

NOV - 6 2003

## FINAL NOTICE FOR ELIGIBILITY APPLICATIONS - LOBSTER TRAP AREAS 3, 4 and 5

Dear Federal Lobster Permit Holder  
and Confirmation of Permit History (CPH) Owner:

**The deadline** for submitting an application to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for future access into the **Lobster Management Area (Area) 3, 4 and /or 5 trap fishery is December 31, 2003. No applications postmarked after that date will be accepted. If you do not apply by December 31, 2003, you will be barred from lobster trap fishing in Areas 3, 4 and 5 in the foreseeable years to come.**

If you have a Federal limited access lobster permit or a Federal lobster permit in confirmation of permit history status, **you must submit an application by December 31, 2003, to be considered for future access to the lobster trap fishery in Areas 3, 4 and 5.**

NMFS published a Final Rule in the Federal Register on March 27, 2003 that modified the Federal lobster regulations, in part, by implementing a limited access program in the Area 3, 4 and 5 lobster trap fishery based on historical participation. These regulations are consistent with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. An application package and instructions were mailed to all Federal lobster permit holders and holders of Federal lobster permits in Confirmation of Permit History on April 3, 2003. NMFS began accepting applications for this program in April 2003. Applications are being reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you have any questions concerning this program please contact the NMFS Northeast Region at (978)-281-9144, or visit the Northeast Regional Office web site at [www.nero.noaa.gov](http://www.nero.noaa.gov) - click on News Releases, and scroll down to April 3, 2003.

Sincerely,

Harold C. Mears, Director  
State, Federal and Constituent  
Programs Office

