

# Update on Federal American Lobster Management Actions

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*Presented to:*

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team

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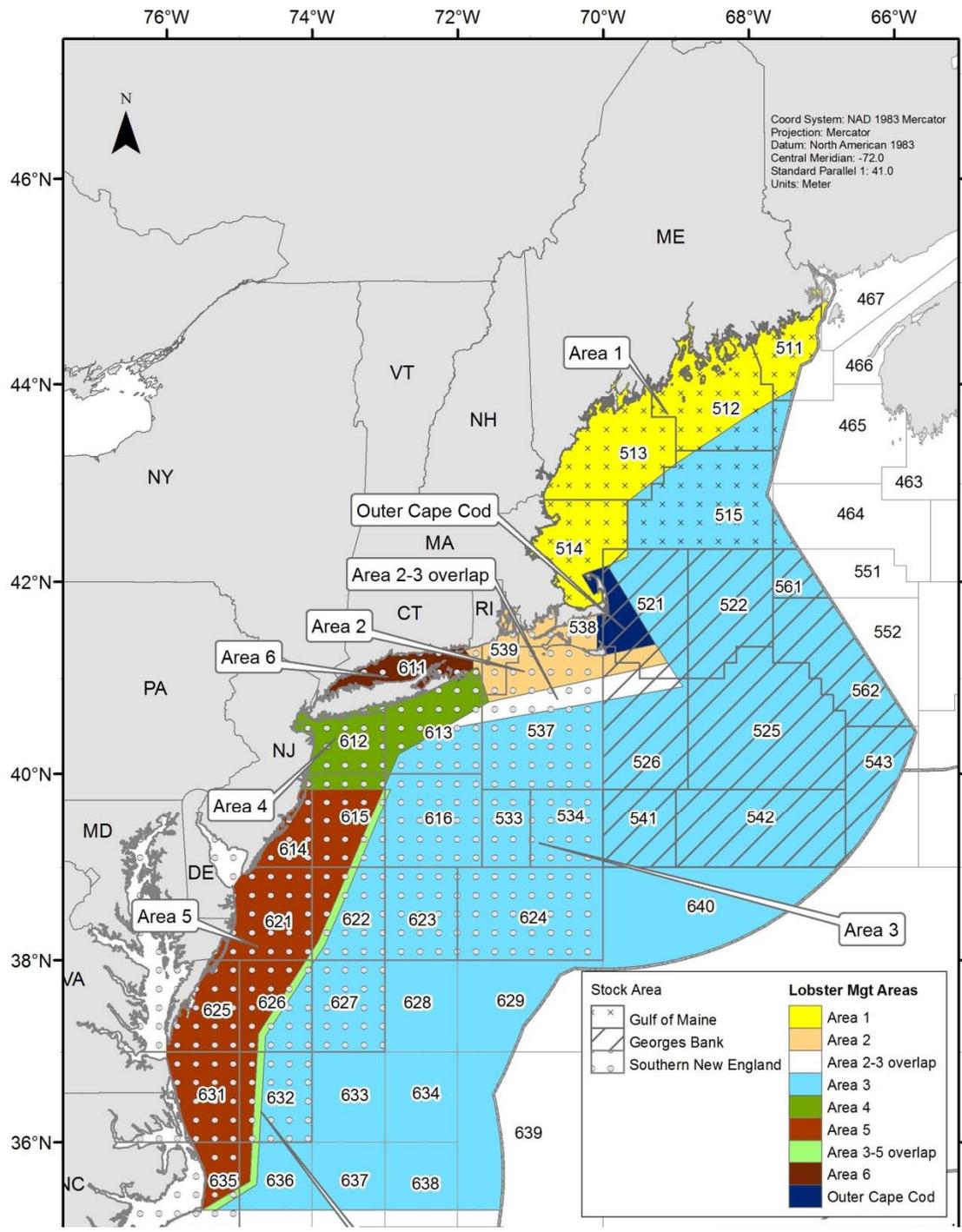
## 2 Federal Lobster Rules in Progress

- Area 1 Lobster Trap Limited Entry Program
  - Final Rule under development
- Southern New England Lobster Trap Effort Control
  - Limited Entry Program
  - Trap Transferability
  - Proposed Rule under development



# American Lobster Management

- Cooperative management by states and NMFS via the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Upon adoption of new measures, Commission recommends complementary federal action
- Federal regulatory authority - Atlantic Coastal Act
- Federal action must be compatible with the Commission's plan and consistent with National Standards of the Magnuson-Stevens Act





# Area 1 Trap Fishery Limited Entry Program Proposed Rule

- Purpose:
  - Responds to ASMFC recommendations to cap permits in Area 1
  - Area 1 is the only area with no current limit on trap permits
  - Maintain stability of the Area 1 lobster stock and fishery
- Proposed Measures
  - Qualify Federal Area 1 Lobster Trap Permits for Continued Access
  - Cap effort (permits) and retain current participants
- Published in the Federal Register on November 18, 2011
  - 45-day comment period ended on January 3, 2012
  - Nearly all comments were in favor of the proposed program



## Proposed Rule: Criteria and Expected Results

- Eligibility Criteria:
  - Area 1 permit renewed anytime during 2008 fishing year
    - May 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009
  - Trap tag purchase during any year from 2004 through 2008
- Anticipated results:
  - 88% of all current Area 1 permits qualify (had permit & bought a tag)
  - Approximately 1,643 permits would qualify
  - About ½ of all Federal lobster permits qualify



## Area 1 Limited Entry Program- *Timeline*

- Public Comments Under Review
- Final Rule and Final Environmental Assessment
  - April or May of 2012
- Notification and Applications
  - 2012 fishing year
- Eligibility Decisions
  - Effective 2013 fishing year



## Southern New England Effort Control

- Cap Federal Permits in Area 2 and Outer Cape
- Vessel-Based Trap Allocations
  - Allocate traps based largely on state data
  - Compatibility with state decisions of eligibility and trap allocation
- Trap Transferability
  - Area 2, Outer Cape Area, *and Area 3*
  - Conservation tax – 10% reduction on transactions
  - Relies on coast-wide tracking database



## SNE Effort Control – *Timeline*

- Proposed Rule – May 2012
- Final Rule and Final EIS – December 2012
- Qualify Permits, Allocate Traps and Initiate Trap Transferability – 2012 fishing year (trap transfers can't begin until qualification and allocation process is complete)