



State of New Jersey

MAIL CODE 501-03

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

TEL. (609) 292-2965 FAX. (609) 984-1414

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.NJFISHANDWILDLIFE.COM

CHRIS CHRISTIE

Governor

KIM GUADAGNO

Lt. Governor

BOB MARTIN

Commissioner

AMERICAN LOBSTER 2016 REGULATION CHANGE

December 23, 2015

Dear New Jersey American Lobster Permit Holder; New Jersey Lobster/Fish/Conch Pot License Holder; Federal Lobster Dealer:

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) adopted Addendum XVII to the American Lobster Fisheries Management Plan requiring the Southern New England Lobster Management Stock Area to implement a 10% reduction in landings for fishing year 2013. In October 2014, the Lobster Management Board revised management options to achievement the 10% reduction for LCMA 4 and 5, as required by Addendum XVII. At the request of several LCMA 5 states, the Lobster Management Board reviewed and determined during its Winter meeting that LCMA 5 met its 10% reduction, and would reinstatement original measures previously approved in 2012. Therefore, the ASMFC's revised management measures for the 2016 fishing year is as follows (please note the following measures have been implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service and are effective in federal waters);

In Area 4, effective January 1, 2016, a person fishing with any gear type in LCMA 4 or that has designated LCMA 4 on their Federal Fisheries or State Lobster Pot Permit shall not take or attempt to take, land, have in his or her possession, sell or offer to sell, any American lobster during the **closed season of April 30 through May 31, 2016**. This is the only closed period for LCMA 4. In addition to the season closure, it is also not mandatory to v-notch egg-bearing lobsters. During the closed season, no dealer shall accept, have in their possession, buy, sell or offer to buy or sell American lobsters from LCMA 4.

In Area 5, effective January 1, 2016, a person fishing with any gear type in LCMA 5 or that has designated LCMA 5 on their Federal Fisheries or State Lobster Pot Permit shall not take or attempt to take, land, have in his or her possession, sell or offer to sell, any American lobster during the **closed season of February 1 through March 31, 2016**. This is the only closed period for LCMA 5. The previous closed season of April 30 – May 31 is re-opened and it is again **MANDATORY** to v-notch egg-bearing lobsters. During the closed season, no dealer shall accept, have in their possession, buy, sell or offer to buy or sell American lobsters from LCMA 5.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

During the LCMA closed season, all lobster traps must be removed from the water. Lobster traps may be set un-baited one week prior to the designated season reopening for each specific LCMA. If the license holder is targeting/harvesting other species with lobster trap gear, the lobster trap gear does not need to be removed; however it shall be tended at least once every 30 days. Any fishermen that possess both a LCMA 4 and LCMA 5 Federal Fisheries or State Lobster Pot Permit will be held to the most restrictive measures of both areas. If you have any questions, please contact the Bureau of Marine Fisheries at 609-748-2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Muffley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

for

Peter Clarke
Senior Biologist Fisheries