



Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management

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TO: All interested parties
DATE: September 19, 2011
FROM: Thomas Angell, Principal Marine Fisheries Biologist
SUBJECT: ASMFC Lobster Addendum XVII Public Hearing

A public hearing for ASMFC Lobster Addendum XVII has been scheduled for **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2011 at 6:30 PM in the COASTAL INSTITUTE BUILDING AUDITORIUM**, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882.

The Southern New England (SNE) lobster stock is at a low level of abundance (below the reference target and threshold) and is experiencing persistent recruitment failure caused by a combination of environmental drivers and continued fishing mortality (ASMFC,2009). It is this recruitment failure that is preventing the SNE stock from rebuilding. The American Lobster Management Board first initiated this Draft Addendum to reduce exploitation on the SNE stock by 50 or 75% in order to initiate stock rebuilding. At the August 2011 Board meeting, the Board changed the document's purpose to reduce exploitation by 10%.

To respond to the Board objectives, the Plan Development Team (PDT) evaluated multiple input and output control measures, including: limited entry; trap limits; minimum and maximum sizes; escape vents; mandatory female v-notch requirements, a male-only fishery; closed seasons; closed areas; and quota-based landing limits. While the PDT acknowledged the effectiveness of certain output controls (such as a quota based on landings) and input controls, the PDT also looked at the ability to effectively monitor, administer, and uniformly enforce selected management tools in the short and long term.

This Draft Addendum proposes to reduce exploitation by 10% by using a two-phased approach utilizing input controls for an initial short-term period (2-4 years), with the intent to transition all jurisdictions towards effective and enforceable long-term management tools.

To address the second phase, the document proposes the immediate establishment of a subcommittee to evaluate all jurisdictions' ability to monitor various output controls, such as a quota-based management approach. The two-phase approach is proposed to allow time for federal regulators to complete their regulatory action intended to align state and federal trap allocations in Area 2.

PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL 5:00 PM (EST) ON OCTOBER 14, 2011.

Draft ASMFC Lobster Addendum XVII can be found at the ASMFC website

http://www.asmfc.org/speciesDocuments/lobster/fmps/lobsterDraftAddendumXVII_PublicComment.pdf