



Notice to Lobster Fishermen

FALL SEASON CLOSURE REMINDER

This notice serves as a reminder of the upcoming fall season closure required under Addendum XVII to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (Commission) American Lobster Fishery Management Plan which was approved in November 2011. The season closure is the same as in past years and applies to all Long Island Sound waters (LMA 6). It extends from September 8 through November 28, inclusive, and applies to both recreational and commercial fisheries and all gears. Between those dates, possession of lobsters taken from LMA 6 or from traps with LMA 6 trap tags is prohibited.

All lobster gear must be removed from the water during the closure, except that the plan allows fishermen two weeks at the beginning of the closure period (September 8 through September 21) to remove gear and two weeks prior to the late fall reopening (November 15 through November 28) to redeploy the gear. Traps cannot be baited until one week prior to reopening (November 22).

The exception in place in previous years that allowed fishermen who hold a conch (whelk) license to continue actively fishing lobster pots for whelk during the fall lobster closure is no longer in place. To conform to new rules in Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) finalized by the Secretary of State on May 11, 2022, any pots used for taking of whelk during the fall lobster closure must meet the definition of whelk pots in RCSA Section 26-142a-6. Fastening open or removing the top door on a lobster pot will sufficiently alter the pot to meet the definition of a whelk pot.

For further information, contact the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program by email at deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov, by mail at P.O. Box 719, Old Lyme, CT 06371 or by telephone at 860.434.6043 between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

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