

## **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 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 was discontinued in 2022.** New rules were implemented through regulation on May 11, 2022. Any pots used for the taking of whelk during the fall lobster closure must meet the definition of whelk pots outlined 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](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov), by mail at P.O. Box 719, Old Lyme, CT 06371 or by calling 860.434.6043 between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint, or require some other accommodation, including equipment to facilitate virtual participation, please contact us at 860-418-5910 or by email at [deep.accommodations@ct.gov](mailto:deep.accommodations@ct.gov). Any person needing an accommodation for hearing impairment may call the State of Connecticut relay number - 711. In order to facilitate efforts to provide an accommodation, please request all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program or event.