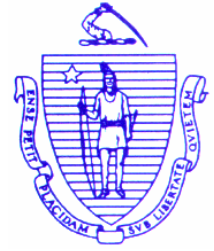




Paul J. Diodati
Director

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October 18, 2005

Dear Interested Parties & Area 2 Commercial Lobster Permit Holder:

Due to re-scheduling of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFC) business meeting in November, *Marine Fisheries* has amended the time and location of the public hearing on the Area 2 lobster fishery effort control plan. Therefore, *Marine Fisheries* and the MFC will hear comments on the final plan as approved by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) American Lobster Board at a 10AM hearing on Wednesday, November 9th at the Holiday Inn – Taunton (700 Myles Standish Blvd., Taunton). The notice with revised time and location is provided below.

If the ASMFC Lobster Board does not enact an effort control plan at its October 31st meeting, then *Marine Fisheries* will cancel this hearing. Notice of cancellation will be sent via e-mail to all subscribers of the *Marine Fisheries* "Listserv" and the notice will be posted on the *Marine Fisheries* web site (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries) by Tuesday November 2nd.

For complete details on draft regulations please visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 9, 2005**

Under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 30A and pursuant to the authority found in M.G.L. Ch. 130 ss. 17, 17A, 80, and 104, Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC) have scheduled a hearing on Addendum VII to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. The addendum, approved by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in November, proposes to implement an effort control plan in the commercial lobster pot fishery in Lobster Management Area 2, including the following plan elements:

- 1. A moratorium on new permits for commercial fishing of lobster traps in Area 2;**
- 2. Establishment of an Area 2 fishery-wide overall Trap Allocation Cap by the ASMFC Board;**
- 3. Allocation of individual permit-based Trap Allocations based on past performance; and**
- 4. A program to allow transferability of trap allocations among permit holders.**

A public hearing has been scheduled:

Wednesday, November 9, 2005 (10:00 AM) at the Holiday Inn – Taunton (700 Myles Standish Blvd., Taunton).

Comments received by e-mail (marinefisheries@state.ma.us), fax (617.626.1509), or mail (251 Causeway St., Suite 400; Boston, MA 02114) will be accepted until 5PM on Friday, November 11, 2005.

Contact DMF for draft regulations and further details or visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.