



# ***Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission***

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger  
703.842.0749

### **ASMFC Seeks Feedback from Permit Holders for Lobster Conservation and Management Areas 2 and 3 *Webinar Meeting Scheduled for January 10, 2024***

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) is seeking input from American lobster permit holders on NOAA Fisheries’ rulemaking to implement aggregate ownership caps in Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LCMA) 2 (Southern New England) and 3 (offshore federal waters) and a maximum trap cap reduction in Area 3. LCMA 2 and 3 permit holders are invited to participate in a public webinar meeting on Wednesday, January 10, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM.

The federal rulemaking responds to the Commission’s 2013 recommendations to NOAA to adopt the measures in Addenda [XXI](#) and [XXII](#) in federal waters. The Commission’s 2013 approval of the Addenda was to scale the capacity of the Southern New England (SNE) fishery to the diminished size of the SNE resource. These Addenda addressed latent effort in the fishery and, by reducing trap limits to reduce harvest, allowed for potential stock rebuilding. However, over a decade has passed since the date when the Commission intended for these federal measures to be implemented. In that time, there have been significant changes in the fishery. Therefore, the American Lobster Management Board is seeking input from LCMA 2 and 3 permit holders to better understand the impacts of these measures within the context of the current fishery.

In LCMA 2, NOAA is implementing an ownership cap that would restrict an entity to 800 Area 2 traps. In LCMA 3, NOAA’s action reduces the maximum number of traps that could be allocated to a permit in Area 3 from 1,945 traps to 1,548 traps over the course of three years, and implements an aggregate ownership cap at the entity level equal to five times the maximum trap cap. These measures are scheduled to become effective on May 1, 2025.

#### **Webinar Instructions**

Please note that in order to comment during the webinar you will need to use your computer or download the GoToWebinar app for your phone. Those joining by phone only will be limited to

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and diadromous species.

listening to the presentation and will not be able to provide input. To attend the webinar in listen only mode, dial 213-929-4221 and enter access code 988-639-468.

Please click [HERE](#) to register for this meeting. The meeting will be held via GoToWebinar, and you can join the webinar from your computer, tablet or smartphone. If you are new to GoToWebinar, you can download the software by ([clicking here](#)) or via the App store under GoToWebinar. We recommend you register for the meeting well in advance since GoToWebinar will provide you with a link to test your device's compatibility with the webinar. If you find your device is not compatible, please contact the Commission at [info@asmfc.org](mailto:info@asmfc.org) (subject line: GoToWebinar help) and we will try to get you connected. We also strongly encourage participants to **use the computer voice over internet protocol (VoIP)** so you can ask questions and provide input at the hearing.

More information on this rulemaking and related documents can be found here:

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NMFS-2022-0032>. For more information on American lobster management, please contact Caitlin Starks, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [cstarks@asmfc.org](mailto:cstarks@asmfc.org).

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