



## Draft Addendum XVII

February 2012





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## Board Task to LCMT

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- The American Lobster Board convened Lobster Conservation Management Teams (LCMT) in Areas 2-6 to recommend methods of exploitation reduction consistent with the options in Draft Addendum XVII
- LCMT 2, 3, 4, and 6 submitted proposals to ASMFC for TC review



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# LCMT 6 Proposal

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- Fall closed season: dates TBD based on tables provided
- Gear will be removed during the closures
  - Proposal may allow a grace period of two weeks to remove traps and allow traps to be returned two weeks early.
  - Licensed traps for black sea bass and conch would not have to be removed



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## TC Review of LCMT 6 Proposal

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- Based on the landings data provided the closed period will achieve a nominal 10% reduction in landings
- TC recommends the closed season be accompanied by gear removal to prevent untended traps
  - Trap removals will have benefits to other species
- The areas should have specific time periods to remove and return traps
  - Late/Early removal/return can inflict non-harvest mortality



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# TC Review of LCMT 6 Proposal

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- Effort and landings patterns be assessed to document shifts resulting from the closed season



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## LCMT 3 Proposal

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- Increase in Minimum Size to 3 17/32”
- Use previous 2007 -2008 minimum size increases (1/16” increase) and the vent increase from 2010 to account for the additional 5.6% reduction in harvest
- Request the Board address the data deficiencies ID highlighted in the addendum
- When the stock rebuilds revisit the implemented measures
- Quickly implement measures in Addendum XVIII



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## TC Review of LCMT 3 Proposal

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- Based on the landings data provided the closed period will achieve a nominal 4.4% reduction in landings
- Additional credit of a 5.6% reduction in landings from the previous vent increase does not meet the guidelines established by the Board
- LCMA will need an additional 5.6% reduction to meet the addendum requirements established by the Board





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## LCMT 2 Proposal

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- Proposed a conservation equivalency program
- Mandatory v-notch program
- Requires all fishermen to notch and immediate return all legal egg-bearing females
- Notching will begin July 1, 2012
- Program will be validated through sea sampling and reviewed on July 1, 2014





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## TC Review of LCMT 2 Proposal

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- Does not meet the guidelines set by the Board in draft Addendum XVII
- Potential to reduce exploitation by 10% with sufficient participation
- To achieve a 10% reduction in catch there would need to be a 50% compliance rate with the program



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## TC Review of LCMT 2 Proposal

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- Continuation of current MA and RI sea sampling is necessary to achieve the observer coverage to validate the reductions by July 1, 2014



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## LCMT 4 Proposals

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- LCMT submitted 2 proposal

Proposal One: Mandatory v-notching and season closure

- Requires all fishermen to notch and immediate return all legal egg-bearing females
- 5 week season closure : January 1-February 7



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# LCMT 4 Proposals

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## Proposal Two:

- Season Closure: April 29-May 31
- Traps will remain in the water
- No lobster will be harvested direct or bycatch
- Request for the most restrictive rule to not apply to the season closure



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# TC Review of LCMT 4 Proposals

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## Proposal one:

- Does not meet the guidelines set by the Board in draft Addendum XVII
- Potential to reduce exploitation by 6.4% with 100% compliance from a mandatory v-notch program
- Need on-going sea sampling program to validate compliance by July 1, 2014



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## TC Review of LCMT 4 Proposals

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- Continuation of current NJ sea sampling and
- NY will need to increase sea sampling to achieve the observer coverage to validate the reduction
  - NY only conducts 1 trip annually in LCMA 4
  - Increase at minimum to 6 trips annually
- A closed season should account for the absence of v-notching during the close period, as proposed it does not
- Closed season will achieve a nominal 3.6% reduction in landings



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## TC Review of LCMT 4 Proposals

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### Proposal two:

- Based on the landings data provided the closed period will achieve a nominal 10% reduction in landings

### For both proposals the TC Recommends:

- Effort and landings patterns be assessed to document shifts resulting from the closed season
- Closed seasons be accompanied with lobster gear removal to prevent untended traps
  - Benefits to other species in the removal of traps





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## New LCMA 4 Information

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- Mandatory v-notch program and a closed season:
- January 1-February 28
  - February 1-March 31
  - February 1- April 7
  - March 2- April 31
  - 3 weeks of April



# % Reductions for Changes in Min/Max Size Limits

<b>Alternative Minimum Sizes (5-1/4" max)</b>	<b>LCMA 2</b>	<b>LCMA 3</b>	<b>LCMA 4</b>	<b>LCMA 5</b>	<b>LCMA 6</b>
>3-13/32" (86.5-133.4mm)	-10.0%		-5.6%	-1.4%	-12.8%
>3-7/16" (87.3-133.4mm)	-19.4%		-13.4%	-3.0%	-25.1%
>3-15/32" (88.1-133.4mm)	-28.5%		-20.3%	-5.0%	-36.3%
≥ 3-1/2" (88.9 - 133.4mm)	-37.1%	-3.8%	-28.3%	-7.1%	-45.8%
≥ 3-17/32" (89.7 - 133.4mm)	-45.3%	-5.4%	-32.1%	-9.4%	-54.0%
≥ 3-8/16" (90.5 - 133.4mm)	-53.4%	-13.3%	-38.0%	-11.7%	-61.9%
<b>3-3/8 Minimum &amp; Alternative Maximum</b>					
≥ 3-3/8" - 4-1/2" (85.7 - 114.3mm)				-23.6%	
≥ 3-3/8" - 4-3/8" (85.7 - 111.1mm)				-31.6%	
≥ 3-3/8" - 4-1/4" (85.7 - 108.0mm)		-13.5%		-39.4%	
≥ 3-3/8" - 4" (85.7 - 101.6mm)	-1.9%	-26.2%	-5.7%	-55.3%	-2.1%
≥ 3-3/8" - 3-7/8" (85.7 - 98.4mm)	-4.3%	-38.6%	-11.7%	-62.6%	-4.5%
≥ 3-3/8" - 3-3/4" (85.7 - 95.3mm)	-12.0%	-53.1%	-24.3%	-72.7%	-10.6%
<b>3-1/2 Minimum &amp; Alternative Maximum</b>					
≥ 3-1/2" - 6" (88.9-152.7mm)		-1.1%			
>3-1/2" - 5.75" (88.9-146.1mm)		-1.8%			
>3-1/2" - 5.5" (88.9-139.7mm)		-2.8%			
≥ 3-1/2" - 5" (88.9 - 127.0mm)	-37.2%	-5.8%	-28.4%	-12.6%	-45.8%
> 3-1/2" - 4 1/2" (88.9 - 114.3mm)	-37.4%	-17.3%	-27.1%	-25.9%	-45.8%
≥ 3-1/2" - 4-1/4" (88.9 - 108.0mm)		-18.7%			
≥ 3-1/2" - 4" (88.9 - 101.6mm)	-39.0%	-31.3%	-32.0%	-62.5%	-47.7%



## % Harvest by LCMA by Month

LCMA	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2	3.1%	1.4%	1.8%	3.4%	5.6%	13.3%	25.2%	18.1%	10.8%	7.3%	5.4%	4.6%	100%
3 & 5	2.0%	1.1%	1.4%	2.8%	7.8%	10.8%	14.8%	16.5%	15.1%	14.0%	9.1%	4.5%	100%
4	3.2%	1.8%	1.9%	5.1%	9.3%	14.4%	16.9%	14.8%	11.5%	9.2%	6.5%	5.5%	100%
6	4.6%	1.4%	1.6%	4.3%	9.3%	11.7%	29.1%	20.2%	5.7%	2.6%	3.1%	6.5%	100%
All of SNE	2.9%	1.3%	1.6%	3.4%	7.6%	12.0%	20.6%	17.5%	11.8%	9.5%	6.7%	5.0%	100%



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## Clarification

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- Which period of landings or measure of exploitation should be used to measure the effectiveness of the measures?
  - The TC notes landings in most areas continued to decline in the last 5 years prior to any actions being taken
- TC is concerned that dual permitted vessels will shift effort from one LCMA to another with closed seasons.
  - Consider most restrictive rule for dual permit holders



# Draft Addendum XVIII

February 2012





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## Purpose

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- The American Lobster Board voted to scale the SNE fishery to the size of the resource
  - including an option that would result in a minimum reduction in traps fished by 25%
- The addendum proposes a consolidation program for LCMAs to address latent effort and reductions in traps fished



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## Purpose

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- For trap limits to be effective in reducing harvest and rebuilding the stock,
  - Without addressing latent effort from the fishery any effort to consolidate the fishery will be undermined
  - Latent effort should be addressed to prevent this effort from coming back into the fishery as the stock grows





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## Background

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- In 2007 LCMA 2 allocation program was implemented
  
- In 2003 LCMA 3 allocation program was implemented
  - Addendum I reduced traps on a sliding scale
  - Trap allocations were reduced in by 5% in 2007 and 2008 and 2.5% in 2009 and 2010



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# Trap Allocations

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- Trap allocations are the only aspect of the current regulations that provide a mechanism to allow consolidation
- The industry will need to right size itself to the available resource in SNE,
  - This is about 50 % of its historic level according to the last assessment.



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# Trap Banking

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- Proposed to provide flexibility and predictability to plan and scale business to the future fishery
- Could reduce the administrative burden for the management agencies and industry by purchasing large number of traps in a single transaction



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## Controlled Growth

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- Limits the rate of trap increases that may result from the implementation of trap transferability,
- Intended to allow an entity to annually move traps from their trap bank account, and add them to their allocation of active traps per year at a predictable rate



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# Proposed Management Tools

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Goal to Reduce traps fished but what is the currency?

➤ Active traps fished

- If active traps fished what is the base year

➤ Allocated traps

- Based on the original allocation or current allocation?
- Should all LCMAs have the same percent reeducation?



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# Proposed Management Tools

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- What is the maximum number of years to achieve the reduction
- Is the overall reduction for all of SNE or by LMCA?



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## LCMA 2/3-Trap Reductions

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- LCMA 2 Proposes a larger initial cut to remove latent traps
- LCMA 2/3 Proposes smaller additional cuts to reach overall goal
- Percent cuts will depend on Goal set by the Board





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# Transfer Tax

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- Current regulations: 10% Tax
- Proposes a range from 5-25%
- Both LCMT prefer 10% tax



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# Trap Transfers

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- ASMFC rules allow entities to transfer of full or partial allocations of qualified traps in accordance with specific criteria
- The ASMFC guidance is different depending on if the transfer is of a full or partial allocation
- Multi area history is retained for full business allocations
- Buyers have to choose an area for multi area allocations in partial allocations



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# Trap Cap

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## ➤ LCMA 2

- 800-Status Quo and LCMT preferred
- 600
- 1000

## ➤ LCMA 3

- 2000 status quo
- Annual reduction by stock area-LCMT preferred
  - GOM/GBK-over 10 years down to 1513
  - SNE over 5 years to 1800



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# Trap Banking

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- Banked traps are owned but not fished
- Held in a banking account
  - Who would develop this database and track these accounts?
- Any entity or permit can establish a single banking account for each vessel
  - Does the vessel or entity have to have an allocation to establish an account?
- Entities can not exceed the ownership cap for their banked and active traps together



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## Trap Banking for LCMA 2

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- Option 1. Status quo trap banking is not permitted
- Option 2. Up to 400 traps can be banked by an individual or corporation at a given time
- Option 3. Up to 800 traps can be banked by an individual or corporation at a given time (LCMT preferred options)



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# Trap Banking for LCMA

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- Option 1. Status quo trap banking is not permitted
- Option 2. Up to 396 traps can be banked by an individual or corporation at a given time
- Option 3. Up to 900 traps can be banked by an individual or corporation at a given time
- Option 4. Up to 2396 traps can be banked by an individual or corporation at a given time, this is equal to maximum ownership cap (LCMT preferred options)



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## Ownership Cap

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- Maximum number of traps that an entity may own in an area, which is any combination of active and banked traps
- Entities who own traps above the cap in each area would be allowed to keep their allocations of qualified traps but all transfer of qualified traps after the date of implementation would be subject to the cap.





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## Controlled Growth

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- Allows an entity to annually move traps from their trap bank account,
  - Adds traps to their allocation of active traps per year at a predictable rate.
- Applies each individual's allocation by LCMA and not a individuals total allocation
- LCMA 2
  - 100-400 traps per year, LCMT prefers 400
- LCMA 3
  - 100-900 traps per year, LCMT prefers 100



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## LCMA 3 Designation

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- Proposes to split LCMA 3 into 3 designations
  - GOM, GBK and SNE
- Fishermen would annual designate which of the 3 areas they will fish in for the year
  - Part of the permit renewal process
  - Can change area from year-to-year
- Bound by the most restrictive rule for the area they designate



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# Annual Review

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- Performance review on an annual basis
  - What are the goals for each year?
  
- The review will consider the number of traps transferred, the rate of transfer, degree of consolidation taking place,



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## Compliance and Recommendation to NMFS

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- If the existing lobster management program is revised by approval of this draft addendum, the American Lobster Management Board will designate dates by which states will be required to implement the addendum.
- Determine measures, if approved, that should be recommended to NMFS for implementation in Federal waters.