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October, 28, 2026
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Lobster Management Board
ATTN: Caitlin Starks

To Whom it May Concern,

A bill was recently passed by the CT legislature and has been signed by our governor which allows possession and sale of live lobsters less than 3 3/8", which is the legal harvest size. This bill was sponsored/supported by the restaurant industry. Strong opposition by CT DEEP, law enforcement, lobstermen, and seafood dealers has resulted in a delayed implementation of this statute until June 2027.

The possession and sale of live lobsters less than the smallest legal harvest size is a core industry protection. This protection is guaranteed by the Magnuson -Stevens Fisheries Act. The individual lobster harvesting states from Maine to the Carolinas have similar regulations protecting their lobster harvesters. This CT legislation , if allowed to be enacted, will impact CT fisherman directly and may result in challenges to regulations in neighboring states as well.

The impact this law will have on the fishery is significant. I request that the board put this issue on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. I'm hoping the board will vet this issue and support the CT lobster industry with a statement in opposition to this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Captain John Whittaker
Connecticut lobsterman and member of ASMFC Lobster Advisory Panel

Outlook

[New] [External] New public comment for 2026 Annual Meeting

From ASMFC <info@asmfc.org>
Date Thu 10/29/2026 6:34 AM
To Comments <comments@asmfc.org>

2026 Annual Meeting

Action Title

2026 Annual Meeting

Action URL

https://asmfc.org/events/2026-annual-meeting/

Name

Stephen Smith

Email

stephens_7@comcast.net

State

Massachusetts

Comment

Why is there not any enforcement of the mandatory vnotch regulation in any of the states from Massachusetts to New York?

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