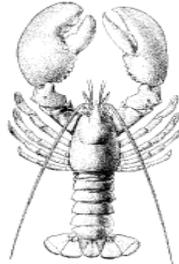


STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

MEMORANDUM



TO: RIMFC Lobster Advisory Panel
Other interested parties

FROM: Jody King, Chairman, RIMFC Lobster Advisory Panel
Thomas Angell, RIDEM/DFW

DATE: June 21, 2006

SUBJECT: RIMFC Lobster Advisory Panel meeting notice

A meeting of the RIMFC Lobster Advisory Panel has been scheduled for WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at RIDEM/Fish and Wildlife, 3 Fort Wetherill Road, Jamestown, RI. The agenda will be as follows:

1. Review draft ASMFC Lobster Addendum VIII.

- **Discussion of management strategies to reach new biological reference points; recent advice from ASMFC Lobster Technical Committee.**
- **Consideration of regulatory changes to V-Notch definition (“Zero Tolerance”) and voluntary/mandatory v-notching of egg-bearing lobsters.**

ALL RIMFC Species Advisory Panel meetings are open to the public.

cc: Michael Sullivan, Director
Robert Ballou, Chief of Staff
Mike Lapisky, Acting Chief, DFW
Steve Hall, Chief, Enforcement
Kurt Blanchard, Deputy Chief, Enforcement
Mark Gibson, Deputy Chief, DFW
Najih Lazar, Supervisor, DFW
Jason McNamee, DFW
RIMFC members

V-NOTCH DEFINITIONS:

- **Current RI / Area 2 V-Notch Definition:**

Any female American lobster with a distinct V-notch mark in the end part of the right tail flipper adjacent to the middle tail flipper, or any lobster which is mutilated in such a manner which could hide, obscure, or obliterate such a mark. A V-Notch shall be a straight-sided triangular cut without setal hairs, at least ¼ inch in depth and tapering to a sharp point. The right tail flipper is examined with the underside of the female lobster facing down and the tail directed toward the person making the determination. For the purpose of this policy, a naturally regenerating right tail flipper is considered legal.

- **Current Maine / Area 1 V-Notch Definition (Zero Tolerance Definition):**

For any person or vessel permitted or declared to fish in LFMA 1, a v-notched female lobster means any female lobster bearing a v-shaped notch of any size in the flipper next to and to the right of the center flipper, as viewed from the rear of the female lobster. V-notched female lobster also means any female lobster which is mutilated in such a manner as to hide, obscure, or obliterate such a mark. The flipper to the right of the center flipper will be examined when the underside of the lobster is down and its tail is toward the person making the determination.

Mandatory V-Notching Requirements:

For any person or vessel permitted or declared to fish in LFMA 1, it shall be required to v-notch all egg-bearing female lobsters caught in the process of lobstering.

- **RIDFW proposal for new RI / Area 2 V-Notch definition:**

Any female American lobster with any mark or damage in the right tail flipper adjacent to the middle tail flipper, or any lobster which is mutilated in such a manner which could hide, obscure, or obliterate such a mark. The right tail flipper is examined with the underside of the female lobster facing down and the tail directed toward the person making the determination. For the purpose of this policy, a naturally regenerating right tail flipper is also considered a v-notch.

Mandatory V-Notching Requirements:

For any person or vessel permitted or declared to fish in LFMA 2, it shall be required to v-notch all egg-bearing female lobsters caught in the process of lobster fishing.