



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
FISH AND WILDLIFE
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHAWN M. LATOURETTE
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

Dear New Jersey American Lobster Permit Holder; New Jersey Lobster/Fish/Conch Pot License Holder; Federal Lobster Dealer:

Commercial Closures

The current federal measures remain unchanged from the previous year and are as follows:

In Area 4, a person fishing with any gear type in LCMA 4 or that has designated LCMA 4 on their Federal Fisheries or State Lobster Pot Permit shall not take or attempt to take, land, have in his or her possession, sell or offer to sell, any American lobster during the **closed season of April 30 through May 31**. This is the only closed period for LCMA 4. During the closed season, no dealer shall accept, have in their possession, buy, sell or offer to buy or sell American lobsters from LCMA 4. All traps must be removed from LCMA 4 before the start of seasonal closure. Lobster fishermen will have a grace period from May 24- May 31 to re-set gear within the closed area, however, traps may not be re-hauled until the season closure ends.

In Area 5, a person fishing with any gear type in LCMA 5 or that has designated LCMA 5 on their Federal Fisheries or State Lobster Pot Permit shall not take or attempt to take, land, have in his or her possession, sell or offer to sell, any American lobster during the **closed season of February 1 through March 31**. This is the only closed period for LCMA 5. During the closed season, no dealer shall accept, have in their possession, buy, sell or offer to buy or sell American lobsters from LCMA 5. All traps must be removed from LCMA 5 before the start of the seasonal closure. Lobster fishermen will have a 2-week grace period from February 1 to February 14 to remove all lobster gear within LCMA 5. Any lobsters taken from traps during this grace period must be turned to sea immediately.

Additionally, lobster fishermen will have a 1-week grace period from March 24 to March 31 to re-set gear within the closed area, however, traps may not be re-hauled until the season closure ends.

Federal trap fishers are prohibited from setting, hauling, storing, abandoning, or in any way leaving their traps within a LCMA during its closed season. Any fishermen that possess both a LCMA 4 and LCMA 5 Federal Fisheries or State Lobster Pot Permit will be held to the most restrictive measures of both areas. If you have any questions, please contact the Bureau of Marine Fisheries at 609-748-2020.