

Compliance Report for American Lobster (*Homarus americanus*) Maryland, 2010

I. Introduction

Maryland has a very small (<40,000 lbs.) annual commercial fishery for American lobster. All commercial lobster harvest takes place in the EEZ. Additionally, a recreational fishery does not exist for lobster in Maryland. Currently, all mandatory regulations are in place.

II. Request for *De Minimis*

Maryland requests *de minimis* status. Based on the limited harvest of American lobster in Maryland, *de minimis* status has been granted in the past.

III. Previous Calendar Year's Fishery and Management Program

A. Fishery Dependent Monitoring

The MDNR Socio-Economic Monitoring and Analysis Unit monitors commercial harvest of American lobster through state landing reports. This unit records landings by gear type in compliance with state laws and regulations.

B. Fishery Independent Monitoring

Maryland currently has no fishery independent monitoring.

C. Previous Year's Fishery and Management Program

Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) pertaining to American lobsters are contained in section 08.02.08.10. Those regulations are available online at URL:

<http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comarhtml/08/08.02.08.10.htm>.

A. A person may not land, possess, sell, offer to sell or transport any:

- (1) Lobster that is egg-bearing or from which eggs have been intentionally removed;
- (2) Lobster measuring less than $3 \frac{3}{8}$ inches from the rear of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of body shell (carapace) to the rear of the body shell;
- (3) A female or male lobster measuring greater than $5 \frac{1}{4}$ inches from the rear end of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of body shell (carapace) to the rear of the body shell;
- (4) Lobster which has an outer shell which has been speared; or
- (5) Female lobster bearing a V-shaped notch which is:
 - (a) A straight-sided triangular cut without setal hairs at least $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in depth and tapering to a sharp point in the flipper next to the right of the center flipper as viewed from the rear of the female lobster, or
 - (b) Mutilated in a manner which could hide, obscure, or obliterate such a mark.

B. An individual shall land lobsters whole and may not remove any meat, body appendages, or tail from any lobster before landing.

C. An individual using gear other than lobster traps may not land more than 100 lobsters per day for a 24-hour period, or 500 lobsters per trip for a 5-day or longer period.

D. A lobster trap may not exceed a volume larger than 22,950 cubic inches.

E. A lobster trap shall have:

- (1) A minimum of one rectangular escape vent which shall be a minimum of 2

inches by 5 ¾ inches; or

- (2) A minimum of two circular escape vents which shall have a minimum diameter of 2 5/8 inches.

F. A lobster trap not constructed entirely of wood, excluding heading or parlor twine and escape vent, shall contain a ghost panel to allow for the escape of lobsters after a period of time if the trap has been abandoned or lost according to the following specifications:

- (1) The rectangular opening covered by the ghost panel may not be less than 3 ¾ inches by 3 ¾ inches;
- (2) The ghost panel shall be located in the outer parlor or parlors of the trap and not the bottom of the trap; and
- (3) The ghost panel shall be constructed of or fastened to the trap with wood lath, cotton, hemp sisal, or jute twine not greater than 3/16 inch in diameter, or non-stainless, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than 3/32 inch in diameter.

D. Harvest by Gear Type

1. Commercial Landings

2010 Maryland Commercial American Lobster Landings as of February 18, 2011.	
Gear Type	Pounds
Pots – Lobster	18,745
Pots – Fish	7,579
Other	89
Total	26,413

2. Recreational Landings

There is no quantifiable recreational harvest of American lobster in Maryland.

E. Progress in Implementing Habitat Recommendations

Not applicable

IV. Planned Management Programs for the Current Year

A. Summary of Regulations that will be in Effect

There are no proposed changes to the regulations for 2011.

B. Summary of Monitoring Programs that will be in Effect

Maryland will continue to monitor commercial harvest of American lobster in 2011 through state landings reports.

C. Highlights of Changes from the Previous Year

None

V. Plan Specific Requirements

None

VI. Law Enforcement Requirements

None