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## Maine lobster license test answer sheet

When the State of Maine is mentioned, the possibility of lobster comes to mind. For centuries, lobsters have always been an important part of the country's commercial fishing. In a year like 2008 alone, harvested lobsters brought in more than \$244 million for 69.7 million pounds of commodities. There are a variety of rules and laws around lobster fishing that must be followed. In fact, it is recommended that before you find yourself violating any of the laws you need to talk about or ask a Marine Patrol officer (Maine). As a licensee, you also have an obligation to file violations and checks related to any licensed activity related to lobster. If you refuse to allow foreclosure or inspection, it is possible that any license you hold is suspended (Maine Legislature). Before you catch a lobster, beware of ground lobster laws in the State of Maine. Non-commercial lobster related activities you cannot accept crab harvesting or non-commercial lobster licenses without being a resident of the State of Maine. With a license, you are allowed to transport or ship, own, pick up and fish crabs and lobsters that you have access to. However, with non commercial lobsters you are not authorized to sell any lobster anywhere (Traces). At the same time, non-commercial licensees cannot soak more than 5 traps for lobsters at any given time in maine coastal waters; a total of five traps include traps for crabs. A non-commercial license for lobster fishing can only be issued to only one individual who must be at least eight years of age when making an application (Maine). Remember that non-commercial licenses give licensed people the opportunity to engage in specified activities. Any individual who is unlicensed and fishing with you cannot engage or assist you in any of the licensed activities of the licensee. The restrictions relate to areas such as bag baiting between transport traps, measuring or catching lobsters, handling or transporting traps for lobster fishing as well as boat operations while transporting traps (Maine Legislature). Laws related to fishing There are also laws around lobster fishing methods. First, it is against the law to take or fish lobster using other methods different from normal lobster traps or fishing from platforms other than ships. The dock is not considered a ship (Maine). When you choose a buoy color, it is recommended that you make sure no other individuals around your area are fishing using the same color pattern or the same color. The buoy you use should be marked permanently and clearly with the license number to you. The color design of the buoy is to ensure it is at least 12 inches long and installed in a way that the color design is very visible on both sides of the boat. At the same time, you may want to remember it is illegal to lift, transfer, raise or arrange a lobster buoy or trap unless it has been clearly marked with a license to fish lobster. Traps and buoys should be marked with the license number lobster (Maine). Fishing lobsters in closed periods Transporting or raising lobster traps is illegal in closed periods. Basically, that means it's against state law to transport lobsters half an hour after dusk until half an hour before dawn from June 1 to August 31. It is also against the law to transport your equipment for lobster fishing outside Eastern Daylight Savings Time at 4pm on a Saturday, until about thirty minutes before dawn the following Monday morning, between early June and late August with both days affected (Trail). Penalties for small or large lobsters Fishing for small or large lobsters attract penalties while each violation draws a \$500 fine, including a \$100 fine for the first five. Each lobster in the first five draws a \$200 fine; cases where the amount of lobster can not be ascertained fines between \$ 1,000 and \$ 5,000 apply. But courts can easily suspend any fines imposed for small or large lobster fishing (Maine Legislature). At the same time, it is illegal to have any kind of lobster or part of a lobster that has been mutilated by means of accurate measurements is impossible (Maine). Lobsters bearing eggs Female lobster eggs once released sticks on the swimmer's tail, between 6,000 and 100,000 eggs. Thus, owning or taking a lobster carrying eggs is unlawful and attracts a \$1,000 fine for each violation, including a \$200 fine for each lobster bearing egg you have, up to the first five. On top of five each lobster draws a \$400 fine. If you have so many lobster egg carriers, the fine is at least \$2,500 and could be above \$10,000. However, if the egg-carrying female lobster is immediately released while living back to coastal waters, there is no violation of the law. Even removing eggs is illegal and attracts \$1,000 for each violation and another \$300 for lobsters involved. Reduce the number of eggs you have removed is not easy to decipher; smooth range between between and \$5,000 (Maine Legislature). Every lobster trap in Maine needs to have biodegradable escape and escape panels. At the same time, lobsters should be measured through the use of double-sided gauges to ensure each lobster is a keeper. Gauges can be purchased from any store supplying fishing equipment. To catch fresh Maine lobster without being caught be sure to shop at LobsterAnywhere.com. Lobster/Non-Commercial Crab Harvest Permits For residents interested in obtaining a Lobster/Non-Commercial Crab Harvest Permit can be obtained by contacting the following: Department of Marine Resources Licensing Division21 State House StationAugusta, ME 04333-002 August 25, 2015 | By: Merritt Carey While I have cut my teeth as an assertive man, my husband has been lobstering recreation. Last night, I had the opportunity to go out with my family and enjoy the ride. As with the lobstering industry in general, regulations for recreational licenses are very strict. You are only allowed five traps and only the licensee can transport and handle the traps. Since my husband has a license, this means I can't do anything when we're out, except enjoy being in the water with my family on a beautiful late summer night, listening to the sound of excitement from the kids whenever the trap comes alongside. And of course, I couldn't resist showing off my new knowledge from time to time — because my husband was measured to see if the lobster was a keeper, I sure convinced him there was no way and reprimanded him once for not checking to see if the lobster was male or female. To get a recreational license, you must be a resident of Maine, and you must pass the test. I was curious about the test, wondering if my practical knowledge would be translated on paper. I was surprised by the length of the test — skimming through the questions, I knew the answers for the most part, but certainly not all of them. You're not allowed to sell any of the lobsters you catch (much to the dismay of one of my daughters who built a virtual fortune selling eggs from our chickens and vegetables from our garden!). Unfortunately, you have to keep all the lobsters yourself, making you very popular among friends and relatives, who are often invited to a new summer shell lobster dinner! In our five traps, we went home with three guards. By the time we got out of the water, the light was fading and our children were grim-eyed. We cooked our catch after the kids were in bed — lobster rolls for lunch tomorrow! This publication was produced by the Maine Department of Marine Resources under allocation 014 13A 0029 30. Pdf version that can be 24 pages, 1 MB (download here for free), are also available. PDF files may require Adobe Reader software (download here for free) to be viewed or printed. Please call DMR at (207) 624-6550 or at the address below if you need print sent to you. Index (select a topic from the list below, or scroll down the page) Introduction When one thinks about the State of Maine, lobster comes to mind. Historically, these resources have dominated its ranks as Maine's most valuable commercial fishery. In 2008 alone, preliminary findings showed more than 69.7 million pounds were harvested in the State with a value of more than \$244 million. The Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is the state agency authorized to address matters concerning the lobster industry and other fisheries related to Maine's coastal resources. Its mission is to conserve and develop marine and estuarine resources; to conduct and sponsor scientific research; to promote and develop Maine's coastal fishing industry; to advise and cooperate with local, state and federal officials on activities in coastal waters; and to implement, manage, and enforce laws and regulations for this enlightened purpose. This webpage provides information on lobstering history, lobster biology, conservation practices, and laws and rules relating to fishing in the State of Maine. Written tests for residents interested in obtaining a Non-Commercial Lobster/Crab Harvesting License can be obtained by contacting the following: Department of Marine Resources Licensing Division 21 Augusta State House Station, ME 04333-0021 (207) 624-6550, or dmr license application page, under Other Forms The answer sheet for testing must be completed and returned along with the application and fees required for the address listed above. Information can also be obtained on the following websites: www.maine.gov/dmr rules and conditions of lobster and www.maine.gov/itw rules and rules of boating. WORD OF WARNING: The information on this page should not be relied upon for legal purposes. Laws and rules are routinely subject to change. This page is updated to the date above, but be aware that changes may occur before the page is updated. If you need more information, please contact one of the DMR Marine Patrol Offices at Boothbay Port (207-633-9595) or Lamoine (207-664-2392) or go on-line to the DMR website listed above. More information about lobsters in Maine. Lobstering History Historically, lobsters were so abundant that Native Americans used them to fertilize their fields and fish their hooks for fishing. Maine's first official lobster landing was reported by James Rosier, a crew member of Captain George Weymouth. In a cruise note to Maine in 1605, Rosier wrote: And by night we were drawing with a small net of twenty fathoms very near the coast; We got about thirty lobsters, very kind and great... which I eliminate not to report, because that is how great the profit of fishing will be ... In a sense, maine lobster fishing begins with Rosier's account, and therefore the oldest continuously operated industry in the North American continent. The actual development of fisheries, of course, did not last until many years later. In colonial times, lobster was considered a food of poverty. They are harvested by hand along the coastline and serve prisoners and indentured servants who exchange their travels to America for seven years of service to their sponsors. In Massachusetts, some servants eventually rebelled. They have their contract stating that they will not be forced to eat lobster more than three times a week. It's not entirely clear when the Maine lobster was first marketed. The importance of commercial fisheries in supplying overseas markets did not arise until after 1840. Massachusetts dealers are beginning to search the Maine lobster grounds for a sustainable supply of the species. The demand for fresh lobster in the big marketing areas of New York and Boston is a strong incentive for fishermen to specialize in these crustaceans. It is believed that the main factor resulting in the exploitation of lobster resources is the sudden success of the canning industry. Maine's widespread lobster fame and lack of adequate facilities for the distribution of fresh produce were factors that stimulated the early canning industry in 1840. During the early years of this new industry, lobsters were carried by blow, sailboats with live wells, to the cannery of Eastport from the western part of the Country. Soon, the success of this new venture led to the construction of 23 factories spread along the coast as far as west Portland. Cannerys are so efficient at processing that they are immediately forced to work with smaller lobsters. In 1860, James P. Baxter warned that four to five pounds of lobster was considered small and two pounds of lobster was being discarded because it was not worth the effort to choose meat for canning. Just 20 years later, the cannery put half-pound lobster meat into cans for processing, a sign that fisheries had been exploited in 1880. The canning industry makes clear the need for conservation and law enforcement if the fishery is to survive. Following the collapse of the canning industry, the fresh lobster industry took over the commercialization of fisheries. The lobster pound first appeared in Vinalhaven in 1875 and others quickly followed. Initially in deep tidal rivers, today they are more common at piers floating in the harbour. Using pounds, dealers can wait for the price of lobster to increase or allow the time of the newly dimoli lobster to harden its shell. This direct storage facility is the backbone of the modern lobster industry. In the 1930s, travelling students were replaced by land-based local buyers as a liaison between harvesters and the community. Buyers buy lobster lobster harvesters who in turn buy fuel, bait, and other equipment from buyers. Local buyers then sell lobsters to people who go down to the docks or hand them over to regional dealers who send lobsters overseas. Tidal pounds and other holding devices have enabled the development and maintenance of more stable marketing conditions. Annual harvest records and the value of catches to State fishermen have been kept at various levels of regularity since 1880. More accurate and detailed records have been compiled every year since 1939. Throughout the 1990s, there was a significant landing record. More information on Maine lobster landing data. The American Lobster Biology (Homarus americanus) is one of about 30 species of claw lobster found in the world's oceans. Characterized by its large claws, it is the only lobster claw found in the Northwest Atlantic. Relatively shallow species, ranging from Labrador to North Carolina, with the largest concentrations found in shoal waters in Maine and Maritime Canada. The lobster is one of many ten-legged crustaceans found in the ocean. Animals without backbone, protected by an external skeleton consisting of a flexible material called chitin. This exoskeleton is a restrictive structure that must be in the barn before the animal can grow; therefore, the life of lobsters is a series of molt that is regulated by a variety of other factors. Since lobsters are lower inhabitants at depths where light may be low intensity, the color may or may not be camouflage. The familiar dark greenish black is most common, but mixed colors, calicos, blue, red, yellow, and even albinos, exist. Unusual colored lobsters are genetic mutations. When one of these lobsters is cooked, the pigment is altered by heat to produce a familiar red color. The body of the lobster consists of two parts: the joined head and thorax (often called the body) and the abdomen or tail joints. Two compound eyes at the end of a short flexible stalk are located on both sides of a sharp, bony projection called rostrum. Also attached to the head are two pairs of antennae, a short pair of two branches used at the site of food chemistry and length, whip-like pairs used in touch and orientation. Lobsters use their paws in the process of feeding, with crushing claws becoming larger than both. Appendages near the mouth, called maxillipeds, direct food to the jaws. Food passes from mouth to stomach three chambers by the short esophagus. In the living room, the gastric plant, a set of chitinous teeth grinds food. In the posterior space, the juice of the digestive glands, often called tomalley, begins digestion. Food is absorbed by digestion and distributed throughout the body through the blood. Uningenerated food through the intestines, located in the tail, and out through the anus. Liquid waste material is extracted from the blood by the antenna glands and excreted through openings at the base of each second antenna. The gills are covered by the curved edges of the carapace in the cavity called the gill chamber. Twenty pairs of gills have a lot of filaments arranged around the central axis, a bit like a bottle brush. Blood flows through these filaments inside and seawater passes through the filaments outside, allowing gas exchange. Water enters the gill space from the back and leaves from the front. Movement through space is the result of a constant beating of the second maxilla, called the gill bailer. Every few minutes the gill bailer reverses its beat for a few scratches to wash the mud or other debris from the gills. This process maintains the gills at peak operating efficiency. Lobsters may take five to eight years to reach sexual maturity. Female sex organs, called ovaries or corals, are two cylindrical rods that cross from the center of the body to the tail. Openings from the ovaries to the outside are located in the basal segment of the tail walking leg. The female has a seminal container on the ventral surface near the intersection of the thorax and abdomen, which stores viable sperm for up to two years after mating. Lobsters mate seasonally, generally right after molt females. The female releases a continuous flow of eggs from the opening of the ovum. When the eggs pass through the seminal container, they are fertilized; covered with substances such as glue, they stick to each other and swimmers. The female protects her eggs from predators, keeps them clean, and oxygenates them for nine to eleven months. When the eggs are ready to hatch, the female walks into the current, releases its tail, and vigorously waves its swimmers, which release the larvae swimming freely into the water. He releases them batches at a time, a practice that increases their chances of survival. Lobster larvae are free swimmers, but are distributed by water currents. They rise to the surface and actively search for their food from plankton. During this free swimming period, which lasts from 15 to 25 days, lobsters prey on many animals, including their own kind. Newly hatched lobsters do not resemble adult lobsters. It is about 8 mm long with large eyes and without claws. For several weeks, the larvae molt three times, changing in size and structure until they look like miniature adults. As larvae of the fourth stage of the post, they settle on the seabed and become lower inhabitants. Lobsters molt about seven times the first year, then at a slower rate than then. From the larva of the first stage to the legal size of an adult, the lobster has melted between 25 to 27 times. It is estimated that a pound lobster may be five for years old. With each molt, a legal-sized lobster can increase in carapace length by 40-50%. The record for the largest documented lobster went to one taken from Nova Scotia in 1977. He weighed 44 pounds, six ounces and may have been 100 years old. One of the most remarkable lobster phenomena is reflex amputation. This removes the appendages when stimulated by shock, fear, or injury. In this way, sometimes he is seriously injured to escape from a worse fate; however, it has the power to regenerate or regrow new appendages. The missing paws, walking legs, or antennae will get larger with each mole in a row. More information on lobster biology. Maine Lobster Management Marine resources have always been a traditional part of Maine culture. From cod fishing back in the 1800s to new species such as hedgehogs and sea cucumbers, many Generations of Mainers have earned their income from the sea. An estimated 73 species of fish; 26 species of whales, dolphins, seals; and 1,600 different under-resident organisms live in the Gulf of Maine. There are currently more than 70 commercially harvested marine species. The Department of Marine Resources is required by Maine law to manage this and all emerging fisheries. Lobster resource management is in transition. The federal Sustainable Fisheries Act, passed in 1996, identifies resources as overfishing and mandates the rebuilding of fisheries. The requirement has prompted much discussion at the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), Maine Lobster Advisory Council (LAC), and Maine Lobster Zone Councils. In 1997, ASMFC began the implementation of an interstate conservation plan to rebuild lobster stocks. Maine's legislature, responding to lac's recommendations, implemented a method to restrict entry based on zones to lobster fisheries. These measures will determine how the industry will look in the future. The goal of ASMFC is to maintain healthy lobster resources by restoring egg production. The broad requirements of the Atlantic coast include a ban on possession of berried lobsters, a ban on ownership of lobster parts, a ban on ownership of v-notched-sized female lobsters, requirements for biodegradable panels, requirements for minimum measuring sizes, restrictions on landing by fishermen using teeth or methods other than traps, necessary permit permits and trap markings, necessary escape vents, and maximum trap sizes. In addition, commercial lobstermen are limited to a maximum of 800 traps per ship, prohibited from owning lobsters that large of 5 carapace lengths, required to v-notch all eggs bearing a female lobster, and necessary to maintain the zero tolerance definition of v-notching. These conservation measures are strongly supported by the State of Maine and lobstermen. More information on the management of non-commercial lobster lobster / crab harvester In 1996, the State of Maine passed a law allowing its residents to license lobsters /crabs for recreational purposes. Traditionally, lobster fishing in Maine really was a commercial endeavor, so with this privilege, came a level of responsibility on the part of the licensee. Remember that lobstering is a highly regulated fishery and that the laws and rules applicable to commercial harvesters apply to non-commercial lobstermen as well. Due to the increase in non-commercial licenses from 207 in 1997 to 2,109 in 2002, the Lobster Advisory Board requested that a training program be developed for non-commercial harvesters. In 2002, a law was passed requiring all applicants of the Non-Commercial Lobster Harvesting License to read the information provided on this page and successfully complete the test before receiving a license. To receive your license, please send the full answer sheet, your application, license fee, and tag fee [download test, answer sheet (under Other Forms), and application here] to: Marine Resources Licensing Department Division 21 Augusta State House Station, ME 04333-0021 If you fall the Lobster/Non-Commercial Crab License test, the Department of Marine Resources will return it to you for recapture. If you have any questions or need further clarification regarding the information in this booklet or the law, please feel free to contact the Bureau of The Office of the Marine Patrol Division or your local Maine Marine Patrol Officer. Please see the location below: Dept. Of Marine Patrol Division I Marine Resources PO Box 8 W. Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575 (207) 633-9595 Marine Patrol Division II Dept. of Marine Resources 22 Coaling Station Ln. Lamoine, ME 04605 (207) 664-2392 Division I provides coverage from Kittery. Division II provides coverage from Bucksport to the Canadian Border. Word of Warning: The information on this page should not be relied upon for legal purposes. If you need more information, contact one of the DMR Marine Patrol Offices listed above. & amp; Legal& The following Lobster Information Rules include legal highlights and rules relating to lobster and crab fishing in Maine. You will be required to follow the laws and rules of this Country. If you have any questions, please contact one of our offices or contact your local Marine Patrol Officer. Better ask the officer before he finds you breaking. For the exact wording of the laws and rules, see the title and section for each category, which can be found on the DMR website or by contacting your nearest Sea Patrol Office, Division I, Boothbay (207) 633-9595 or Division II, Lamoine (207) 664-2392. Bureau Marine is the designated enforcement branch of the Department of Marine Resources. In the field, Sea Patrol responsible for the enforcement of all laws and rules relating to marine resources. The licensee has an obligation to submit himself to inspection and search for violations related to licensed activities. Refusal to permit inspection or foreclosure shall be the basis for suspension of any or all licenses. In addition, your license may be suspended for penalty for violations of marine resources laws under Title 12, Section 6306 & amp; 6351. Summary of Non-Commercial License Activity Title 12, Section 6421 Licensee of Lobster Harvest (Non-Commercial Crab, you must be a resident (see glossary) of the State of Maine. This license authorizes you to fish, pick up, own, ship, or transport the lobsters or crabs you have taken. The license does not give you the authority to sell lobster/crab. As a non-commercial licensee, you should not soak more than five (5) lobster traps at a time in maine coastal waters. A total of five of these include crab traps. The applicant or licensee must declare the vessel to be used to conduct lobster/crab fishing activities with the permit. A maximum of ten (10) non-commercial trap tags may be issued for the declared vessel, regardless of the number of non-commercial licensees fishing from that vessel. A non-commercial lobster/fishing license may be issued only to one person who at the time of application is at least 8 years old. This license only allows you, a licensed individual, to engage in the activities discussed above. Unlicensed individuals with you may not engage in any licensed activity or assist you, the licensee. These restrictions include the following: transporting/handling lobster traps, tape/measuring lobsters, bait bags between transport traps, and operating boats between transport traps. Fishing Method Title 12, Section 6432 It is not legal to fish or take lobsters by any method other than with conventional lobster traps or from any platform other than a ship. A ship does NOT include a dock. When choosing the color of your buoy, make sure no one else in your area is fishing with the same color or the same color pattern. Your buoy be marked clearly and permanently with your license number. Branding examples, paintings, or permanent bookmarks. The color design of the buoy should be displayed on board in one of two methods. On both sides of the hull or on panels painted on both sides and attached to the upper side of the front of the boat in a way that it is clearly visible on both sides of the boat. Each color should appear as a solid color strip 4 inches high and 18 inches long eating another color on the side to form a rectangle with a black border of one inch on all sides, OR Buoys at least 12 inches long, installed in a way so that the color design is clearly visible on both sides of the boat. It is against the law to establish, raise, lift transfer lobster traps or buoys unless clearly marked with your lobster/crab fishing license number. Ex. Engraved tags or plastic strips with permanent markers. Note: Buoys and traps must be marked with your lobster/crab license number. Closed Period Title 12, Section 6440 It is unlawful to raise or transport a lobster trap during a closed period. It is not legal to transport lobster utensils from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise between June 1 and October 31. It is against the law to transport lobster equipment after 16:00 Eastern Daylight Saving Time, Saturday to 1/2 hour before sunrise the following Monday morning from June 1 to August 31, both including days. Lobster Measurement Title 12, Section 6431 Lobsters should be measured with a special two-sided gauge to ensure that they are keepers. You can buy gauges from your local fishing supply store. Lobsters legal in the State of Maine have a carapace length or body shell measuring between 3 1/4 inches and 5 inches. Measurements are taken between the back of the extreme eye socket to the tip of the carapace. The minimum lobster size has a carapace or a body shell length of 3 1/4 inches. The maximum lobster size has a carapace or a body shell length of 5 inches. Lobsters are measured from the back of extreme eye sockets, along a line parallel to the midline of the body shell, to the back end of the body shell. To be a guard, this length must be at least 3 1/4 inches but not more than 5 inches. Lobster measurements are determined by a two-sided gauge of the State of Maine. Note: A common mistake made by novice lobstermen is measuring horns or rostrums located above the eye socket. Make sure that your size is on the back of the extreme eye socket and under the horn. Exception: No offence will occur if illegal lobsters are immediately released alive into coastal waters. Penalty: For large or small lobsters, a fine of \$500 for each violation and, in addition, a fine of \$100 for each lobster involved, up to and including the first 5, and a fine of \$200 for each lobster over \$5, or, if the amount of lobster cannot be determined, a fine of not less than \$1,000 or more than \$5,000 or more than \$5,000 or more than \$5,000 or more than \$5,000 or more than \$5,000. The court may not suspend the fines imposed under this section. Mutilation: It would be unlawful to have a lobster, or part of it, mutilated in a way that makes accurate measurements impossible. Feed Title 12, Section 6432-A Unauthorized use of offal bait for fishing or retrieving lobsters or crabs. Offal means carcasses, waste parts, renderings or remains of wild or domestic animals not marine organisms, but does not include the skin of animals from which hair has been removed. Note: Possession of offal when fishing or picking up lobsters or crabs is an offence in this section. Molesting Lobster Gear Title 12, Part Rule 25.05 It is unlawful for anyone except a licensed owner, or Marine Patrol Officer to raise, lift, transfer, own, or in any way molest a lobster trap, warp, buoy, or lobster car. Adjudication under this section carries a mandatory three (3) year license loss. Note: Lobster traps, cars, buoys, or warps may be removed or removed from state waters or beaches for the purpose of returning lobster equipment to a licensed owner or disposing of lobster equipment properly by anyone with written permission from a Marine Patrol Officer. Anyone wishing to obtain written permission to remove the teeth described above should contact the Department prior to removal. This includes all equipment that has been washed ashore and appears to be abandoned. Underwater Storage Title 12, Section 6443 Any trap or other container used to store lobsters below the surface of coastal waters must be clearly marked with the fishing license number of the person storing the lobster. Any traps or other containers and the contents in them, found in violation of this section can be confiscated and their contents returned to their natural habitat. Egg Bearing Lobsters Title 12, Section 6436 When a female lobster releases its eggs, they are glued to the swimmer under its tail. The number of eggs carried by the female varies according to its size. The smallest adult lobster in Maine will produce about 6,000 eggs, while the largest will produce about 100,000 eggs. Female lobsters protect and oxygenate their eggs for nine to eleven months before they hatch as larvae. Thousands of eggs under its tail resemble berries, which is why lobsters with eggs are often referred to as berried females. Scientists estimate that only 1/10 of the 1% of hatched eggs will survive to a minimum legal size. It is against the law to pick up, transport, sell or have any lobster carrying eggs (carried under the tail). The penalty for owning a lobster egg carrier is \$1,000 for each violation and, in addition to a \$200 fine for each lobster involved up to and including the first 5, only 5, a \$400 fine for each lobster or, if the amount of the lobster cannot be determined, a fine of not less than \$2,500 or more than \$10,000. There is no violation if a berried woman is immediately released into coastal waters. It is illegal to remove eggs from berried females. The penalty for removing an egg from a female lobster is \$1,000 for each violation and, in addition to a \$300 fine for each lobster involved, or if the amount cannot be determined, a fine of not less than \$1,000 or more than \$5,000. (Heading 12, Section 6438-A, Subsection 2). Determining The Sex of Lobsters determine the sex of the lobster, you should see the first pair of appendages under the tail, called swimmers. They are positioned near the base of the last pair of walking legs. The Tjje a pair of hard swimmers in males, and soft and fluffy in females. V-Notched Lobsters Title 12, Section 6436, Rule 25.15 All lobstermen in the State of Maine participate in the mandatory v-notch program, requiring them to record all egg-carrying lobsters prior to release. The practice records a breeder known for expanding his protection beyond hatching his eggs. When looking at the upper side, the fin immediately to the center

right of one is subject to a notch if the female lobster carries eggs. A v-notch tool or sharp knife is used to remove portions in a quarter (1/4) inch from the center of the fin. This V-notch will remain through the next few molt which allows it to reproduce for several years to come. If the v-notch grows, it must be v-notched again to a quarter size (1/4) inch to maintain the protection of this breeder. Natural events can also lead to mutilation of a woman's right fin, which also makes it illegal to possess. A female lobster marked with a v-notch on the right fin next to the middle fin is illegal to possess. The correct fin is determined when the bottom of the lobster descends and its tail towards the person making the determination. It is illegal to have female lobsters mutilated in a way that can hide or obliterate v-notch, including missing fins. No offence has been imposed if the mutilated female lobster v-notched is immediately released into our coastal waters. The penalty for v-studded/mutilated females is \$500 for each violation and, in addition, a fine of \$100 or any lobster involved, up to and including the first 5, and a \$400 fine for each lobster over 5, or, if the amount of lobster cannot be determined, a fine of not less than \$1,000 or more the Court should not suspend the fine imposed under this subsection. Lobster Construction Trap traps are also known locally as pots. The materials used for construction have changed over the years, but the basic compartment design continues to attract and catch lobsters. Today most of the lobster traps used in Maine fisheries are built from plastic-coated wire. They usually have two mouthpiece openings called heads, in which the lobster enters the first compartment commonly called the kitchen. After feeding, the lobster can roam through the inner funnel or salon head to a compartment called a salon. Escape Vent Title 12, Section 6433, Rule 25.85 It is against the law to fish or retrieve lobsters unless the lobster trap is equipped with ventilation or an unobstructed gap in the living room section. There are two types of plastic ventilation used in wire traps: rectangular and circular. Rectangular Ventilation: This vent has an opening of 1 15/16 inches 5 3/4 inches. Ventilation can be placed near the bottom of the trap with no higher open ventilation one line of mesh from below. Ventilation can also be placed above the living room section, but it should be above the head of the living room. Circular ventilation: This vent has two circular openings 2 7/16 inches in diameter and is commonly referred to as crab ventilation. Circular ventilation can only be used in traps when ventilation is placed in traps horizontally, not vertically one on top of the other. Circular ventilation can be inserted into the living room section of the trap along the lower edge or at the top of the living room, but it should be above the head of the living room. If you have wooden traps, you should have an opening of 1 15/16 inches along the bottom edge, which can be achieved by separating the lath part of the living room or above the head of the salon section. Biodegradable Escape Panel Title 12, Section 6433-A, Rule 25.80 Biodegradable Escape Panel: All lobster traps must be equipped with biodegradable ghost panels. Ghost panels are panels designed to release lobsters from trappings lost while fishing. Often, ghost panels and escape vents are combined into one unit. This can be achieved by using an iron metal pig ring (diameter 3/32 or less) to hold the plastic escape vent in place instead of the stainless steel pig ring. Make sure that enough wire traps are cut behind the escape vents to meet the required opening 3 3/4 with 3 3/4 for ghost panels. By providing a large opening when the pig rings dissolve, the trap does not continue to retain the lobster if it is lost on the seabed. Each lobster trap should have an unobstructed ghost panel located near the lower edge of the living room section, either on the sides, at the end, or at the top if the ghost panel is placed directly above the head. In addition to iron metal pig rings, ghost panels can be attached using untreated natural materials such as cotton, flax, sisal, jute twine not exceeding 3/16 of an inch diameter, or soft wood lath. Any material may be used as a panel if held by any of the materials listed above in section 1. Panels should be constructed in such a way as to make an unobstructed opening at least 3 3/4 by 3 3/4 or in a wooden trap, an unobstructed opening of at least 3 inches along the entire length or height of the living room section when the panel is removed or opened. Tagged Traps Title 12, Section 6431-B, Rule 25.08 Tagged Traps: All lobster traps, both commercial and non-commercial, must have a state-issued tag currently installed in it for fish seas or transported by boat. Tags must be purchased from the Department of Marine Resources and replaced annually. New tags must be installed by June 1st of each year. Tags are required to securely attach to the trap bridge the way that the tags are designed. Lobster trap tags should be placed in traps to be clearly visible for inspection by the Sea Patrol No person will fish with, lift, transport, raise, or transport a lobster trap with a tag that has been tampered with or where the tag number is illegible or missing. Note: Trap tags issued to Holders of Non-Commercial Lobster/Crab Harvesting Licenses do not display the lobster/crab license number and therefore do not meet these requirements. The license number needs to be added to the trap. If the tag is missing or damaged, it must be replaced. Contact your local Marine Patrol Officer or DMR headquarters for a replacement tag. Trap Runners Title 12, Section 6433-B Trap Runners: Lobster traps must have devices attached to traps designed to prevent damage to lobster claws. If a cane runner is used: The runner can be made of any material The runner must be at least 1/4 inch thick and a minimum of two runners must be attached to a lobster trap, placed on the opposite side of the bottom of the trap. If the second layer of material is used instead of a stick runner: The material should be layered in a way that creates a mesh size smaller than the basic trap mesh when attached to the bottom of the trap. If a device other than the one identified above is used, the device should be designed to minimize damage to the lobster claws and must be approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources. Federal Whale Tooth Modification & States Required for all pitfalls in Maine Coastal Waters Rule Chapters 75.01 & 75.02 Protected Resources In addition to lobster conservation, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act provide conservation and protection of marine mammals and turtles. The Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) has been developed to reduce to near-zero levels the involvement of fishing gear that causes serious injury or death in all large whales. The state of Maine is fully committed to the protection of the Great Atlantic Whale, while at the same time protecting the economic and operational realities of our State's fisheries. The Department of Marine Resources has implemented the State Take Reduction Plan, which consists of two main components, a sighting/surveillance network and a disentanglement network. ALWTRP mandates safe modification of whales for all lobster equipment. Universal requirements are no lines floating on the surface, no storage of wet equipment for 30 days and a knot-free buoy line thrust. Everyone fishing for lobster gear in Maine's coastal waters from head tide to The Liberation Line must adhere to one of the following ALWTRP options: All buoys must be attached to a buoy line with a weak link having a break strength of no more than 600 pounds; All buoy lines shall be made entirely of drowning; or All ground lines shall be made entirely of sinking lines NOTE: Weak links may include swivels, weak plastic links, appropriate straps pig rings, ropes attached to life vests, or devices approved in writing by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). In addition, weak links should be designed so that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and knot-free when the weak link breaks. Examples and images of weak links, and other information about ALWTRP are available . Liberation line chart for the State of Maine. Class A Boat Safety Rule Classification: Length less than 16 feet Class 1: 16 feet to less than 26 feet Class 2: 26 feet to less than 40 feet long Class 3: 40 feet to a length of less than 65 feet means the distance measured from end to end above deck, does not include thin. This is a straight line measurement of the overall length, expressed in legs and inches, from the front of the ship to the aftmost part measured parallel to the center line, excluding outboard motors, brackets, bowsprit, steering, and similar attachments. Safety Equipment on MotorBoats and Other WaterCraft Operators of any watercraft in Maine waters shall be responsible for seeing that the craft is equipped as specified in the rules. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to permit the operation of any water aircraft in federal waters in Maine unless they comply with all applicable federal laws and regulations relating there to it. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) All personal flotation devices (Type I, II, or III) used on board water must be approved, clearly labeled or printed as such, placed so that they are easily accessible in craft, maintained in well-deployable conditions, and the appropriate size for who the person is intended to be. Devices designed to be thrown (Type IV) should be immediately available on the craft. Devices that use kapok or fibrous glass for flotation materials should have materials encased in plastic covers. The purpose of personal flotation devices, commonly referred to as life jackets, is to provide additional buoyancy to help you float. Buoyancy is a necessary force to keep you afloat with your head and chin on the water. This power is expressed in pounds. Several factors affect the amount of buoyancy a person may need to float. These include size, weight, lung size, age, percent body fat and a person's physical condition. Due to these various factors, it is best to try your personal buoy device in the water before an actual emergency occurs to ensure that it will keep you afloat. Shown below are different types of PFD. Type I: This PFD is easiest to withdraw in an emergency and is designed for extended survival in rough open water. It will usually turn an unconscious person face up and have 22 pounds of buoyancy. This is the best PFD to keep you afloat in remote areas where rescue may be possible Come. Type II: This classic PFD comes in several sizes for adults and children and for calm inland water where there is the possibility of a quick rescue. It's less large and cheaper than a Type I PFD and can turn an unconscious person face down into the water. It has 15.5 pounds of buoyancy. Type III: This life jacket is generally considered the most comfortable, with styles for boating and different sports activities. They are for use in calm water where there is a high probability of a quick rescue as they generally will not change the unconscious person facing up. Flotation assistance comes in various sizes and has a minimum buoyancy of 15.5 pounds. Type IV: It is designed to be thrown at someone in the water. Devices that can be thrown include boat cushions, ring buoys, and horseshoe buoys. They are not designed for wear and must be equipped by PFD. It is important to keep the device easily accessible for emergencies; they should not be used for small children, non-swimmers, or unconscious people. Type V: SPECIAL USE DEVICES are intended for certain activities and can be carried instead of other PFDs only if used in accordance with the approval conditions on the label. Type V PFD provides Type I, II, or III PFD performance (as indicated on the label). If the label says PFD is approved only when used, it must be worn, except for people in enclosed spaces, and used according to the approval label to meet the conditions of carriage. Some Type V devices provide significant hypothermia protection. Varieties include deck clothing, work vests, board sailing vests, and vests with safety straps. Immersion setting: The immersion suit or survival suit will delay the effects of hypothermia in cold water. It keeps the wearer dry, warm, and afloat. It is not practical to use when working or operating a boat because it limits maneuverability and is very warm. It must be kept on board for emergencies. Dyeing clothing should be stored and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. How many PFDs do you need? U.S. Coast Guard and Maine laws require you to have a PFD-approved USCG on your recreational vessel. The number and type you need depends on the size of your boat, the number of people on board, and the age of the people on board. Your PFD must be in good condition and serviceable. If they become torn or the water is soaked to the point that they will not dry out, they should be replaced. PFD should also be available. They should not be stored or stored in their original packaging. Boats under 16 feet long: If your boat is less than 16 feet long or is a canoe or kayak of what length You MUST have WEARABLE PFD, Type I, II, or III for EVERYONE on board IN ALL WATERS. Watercraft 16 feet or longer: If your boat is 16 feet or more, you MUST have Type I, II, or III PFD for each person on board, PLUS at least one Type IV (throwable device) on board. For example: if you have 3 people on board your 16-foot boat, you need a total of 4 PFDs, 3 wearable PFDs, Type I, II or III AND 1 castable, Type IV. Mandatory Wearing your PFD When wearing your PFD is not normally required by law, there are four exceptions to this. Children 10 years and older MUST wear Type I, II, or III PFD while on board all water aircraft while in progress. Anyone canoeing or kayaking on the Saco River between the Hiram Dam and the Atlantic Ocean between January 1 and June 1 MUST wear Type I, II or III PFD. Anyone operating or driving a private water plane (jet-ski, etc.) must wear Type I, II or III PFD. Anyone towed to water skiing, surfboards or similar devices must wear a PFD, life belt or similar lifesaving device. EXCEPTION: Canoes owned by summer camps of boys or girls located in inland waters in Maine, licensed by the Department of Human Services, and used by campers under the direction and supervision of camp counselors at least 18 years of age or older during training and instruction periods in the waters adjacent to the main camp within 500 feet of the camp's coastline, must be exempt from pfd requirements. Wooden rafts carrying no more than two people and used in ponds or lakes or inland waters with an area of less than 50 hectares are exempt from carrying PFD. Visual Distress Signals Any ship 16 feet long or more or any ship carrying six or fewer passengers for hire in coastal waters must carry a U.S. Coast Guard-approved visual distress signal, which must be available and in well-visualized conditions. Devices suitable for daytime use and devices suitable for night use, or devices suitable for day and night use, should be brought. Between sunset and sunrise, no one can use a boat less than 16 feet long in coastal waters unless the U.S. Coast Guard approves a visual distress signal suitable for night use being on board. No one can use the boat unless the necessary U.S. Coast Guard-approved visual pressure signals are available and in good condition and can be visualized. EXCEPTIONS: The following people are exempt from carrying visual pressure devices suitable for day use; however, they must carry a U.S. Coast Guard-approved visual distress signal suitable for no-night use when operating between sunset and sunrise. Someone compete in organized marine parades, regatta races, or similar events. A person uses a manually driven boat; or Someone who uses a completely open construction sailboat is not equipped with a propulsion engine, it is under 26 feet long. Fire Extinguishers are classified by letters and numbers according to the type and size of the fire that they can extinguish. The letter B indicates this fire able to extinguish fires caused by flammable liquids, such as gasoline or oil. NEVER try to use water to extinguish gasoline or oil fires. If'll just spread the fire. Fire extinguishers should be checked for cracked or broken hoses. Always keep nozzles free of any obstructions. Check the pressure gauge for the right pressure. Make sure that the pin lock and sealing cable are in place. When a fire extinguisher is required, it should be kept in condition for immediate use and placed so that it is easily accessible at all times. When is a fire extinguisher needed? Ships without a Fixed Fire Extinguishing System are required to carry: Less than 26' - 1 B-I 26' extinguisher to less than 40' - 2 B-I or 1 B-II 40' extinguisher to less than 65' - 3 B-I or 1 B-II & 1B Ship-II with Fixed Fire Extinguishing System required to carry: Less than 26' to less than 40' - 1 B-I 40' extinguisher up to less than 65' - 1 2 B-I fireships less than 26' driven by outboard motors and not carrying passengers for hire are not required to carry such fire extinguishers if the construction of the motorboat will not allow the trapping of gas or steam that explodes or is flammable. Bait wells, glove compartments, ice chests, open floors and closed compartments fully filled with floating flotation materials are not considered closed compartments. One B-II extinguisher can be replaced with two B-I extinguishers. Check your extinguisher's pressure gauge regularly. Note: Whether your motorboat is required to carry a fire extinguisher or not, it is always a good idea to have it on board in case an emergency arises. Ventilation rules require ventilation of all engine compartments and closed fuel tanks on gasoline-powered vessels. Ventilation ducts should be at least two inches in diameter. The intake channel should extend halfway to the hull, or at least under the intake of carburetor air in the open air. The manufacturer installs an exhaust blower in the engine compartment so that gasoline fumes can be removed before the engine starts. Flame Arrestors internal combustion engines can backfire. To protect against fires, all motorboats, except patches and diesels, must have the U.S. Coast Guard approved to backfire on any carburetor. Whistle (horn) and Bell Requirements Each motor boat must be equipped with an efficient whistle, horn, or other sound-generating device. See chart below for requirements. Motorboats driven by outboard motors while competing in official races or using incidentals to tune the boat for racing do not need to comply with these requirements. Except on emergencies or motorboat enforcement to signal fog, no sirens will be used. Ship Length Device Type Less than 39'4 No Bell Need Some way to make enough sound enough 39'4 to 65'7 Bell Required Whistle audible for 1/2 mile 65'7 to 245'11 Bell Required Whistle audible for 1/2 mile Navigational Lights Any water plane in all weathers operating in inland waters from sunset to sunrise will bring and display the following lights during this time and during that time no other lights may be mistaken for those prescribed. Any white light specified by this section will be visible at a distance of at least two (2) miles. Each colored light specified by this section must have a character as seen at a distance of at least one (1) mile. The word seen in this subsection, when applied to a lamp, means to be seen on a dark night with a clear atmosphere. Class A and 1 speedboats: Bright white lights back to show around the horizon. The combined light at the front of the ship and lower than the back of the white light, shows green to the right and red to the port, so it remains to throw light from right forward to two abaft points of each side beam. Class 2 and 3 speedboats: Bright white light at the front of the ship as near the rod as practical, so it is built to show uninterrupted light over the arc of the twenty horizon (20) compass point, so keep it to throw light ten (10) points on each side of the ship; i.e. from right to front up to two points abaft beams on both sides. A bright white light back to show around the horizon and higher than a white light forward. On the right side of the green light is so built to show uninterrupted light above the arc of the horizon ten (10) compass points, so that it remains to throw light from right to front to two (2) abaft point beams on the right side. On the harbour side the red light is so built to show uninterrupted light above the arc of the horizon ten (10) compass points, so it remains to cast light from right forward to two (2) abaft point beams on the port side. The side lights are said to be equipped with an inboard display with sufficient height so that it is set to prevent these lights from being visible throughout the bow. Underwater boat under the sail: Each motorboat and other type of water plane, when propelled by a sail only, will carry only a combined light or a separate side light corresponding to its class, and in addition, one white light at the stern so that it is built so that it will show uninterrupted light over the horizon area of twelve (12) compass points that are so fixed as to show the light of six (6) points from the right of the Ship. Waterboats under sails and motors: When driven by sails and engines, any motorboat must carry the lights required by this section for the motorboat by the machine only. Watercraft Manually Propelled: All other boats are not driven by such an engine Rowing boats, canoes, and rafts, operated only by hand power, rowed, or navigated by currents, should be ready in the hands of lanterns or flashlights that show white light to be exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collisions. Waterboat at Anchor: Any motorboat anchored only in inland waters from sunset to sunrise, while occupied by a person or person, can be displayed in lieu of the navigation lights above, one white light indicating around the thirty-two (32) point horizon. Enforcement Lights: Only water aircraft used by law enforcement officers authorized to enforce this rule or Title 12, Chapter 715 laws are permitted to use or display distinctive blue, throbbing or rotating lights for the purpose of enforcing this law in Maine waters in addition to other necessary navigation lights. Tow boats: Tow boats, when towing booms or rafts of wooden products in the state's inland waters, will be displayed, in addition to the lights required for the water plane, amber lights flashing or pulsating on one or both tow boats and towed rafts. International Lights: Any water plane using International Waters between sunset and sunrise must display the necessary lights under the International Regulations to Prevent Collisions at Sea (Colregs 1972). Lights under International Rules can be displayed in inland waters. Credits for PDF booklet, most of which are used on this web page Figure 1 - Boothbay Historical Society, circa 1900 Figure 2 – DMR, Archive Figure 3 – DMR, Image Archive 4 – DMR, Image Archive 5 – DMR Record Lobster Landing Program Figure 6 – DMR Record Lobster Landing Program Figure 7 – DMR, Archive Figure 8 – Eric Annis Figure 9 – Eric Annis Figure 10 – DMR, Division of Image Education 11 - DMR , Marine Patrol Bureau Figure 12 - Marine Patrol Officer Jodi McMahan Figure 13 - DMR, Archives Figure 14 – DMR, Education Division Figure 15 – Marine Patrol Officer Jodi McMahan Figure 16 – DMR, Education Division Figure 17 – Marine Patrol Officer Jodi McMahan Figure 18 – DMR, Education Division Figure 19 – DMR, Education Division Figure 20 – DMR, Education Division Figure 21 – DMR , Education Division Figure 22 – DMR , Figure 23 Education Division – DMR, Figure 24 Education Division – DMR, Figure 25 Education Division – DMR, Figure Education Division 26 – DMR, Figure 27 Education Division – DMR, Figure 28 Education Division – National Marine Fisheries Service Figure 29 – DMR, Figure 30 Education Division – DMR, Education Division Cover – Unknown Original Lobster Booklet Design: Jon Stock Cornish, Abby, Terrywell and Carl Wilson. Updated and Edited by: Jessica McKay (2009) Supplementary Glossary: The elongated part of the body Appeal: Put the rubber band on on Claws. Berried: A female lobster carrying eggs under its tail that appears like a bunch of berries. Biodegradable: Capable of decomposing by natural processes. Bitter End: The last part of the rope chain; inboard end of the anchor rope. Cars: Lobster cars, crates, boxes, or other contrivances, either submerged or floating, that can be used in coastal waters to hold live lobsters. Carapace: A large shell of the main body covers the front of the lobster. Coastal waters: All state waters are in high tide rise and fall to the 200-mile limit of the United States, but do not include areas above fishing trails or dams when fishing trails or dams are a sorting line between high tide and freshwater. Dorsal: The upper surface of the lobster. Escape Vent: Opens a lobster trap that allows small-sized lobsters to escape. Extrusion: Release of eggs from inside the female lobster to the tail. Fish: The verb fish means to take or try to take a marine organism by any method or means. Fins: A large piece of flattened, along with the others, forms a tail fin. Gastric Plant: A milling device located inside the abdomen. Gauges: Legal measures are used to check the minimum and maximum size of lobsters to ensure they are appropriate for storage. Ghost Panel: A section designed to open traps lost while fishing, thereby releasing the lobster. Ghost Trap: A trap that no longer has a line attached to the buoy on the surface of the water. Hard Shell: Lobster with a firm shell and full of meat. Head: Opening where the lobster enters the trap. Hog Ring: A small metal ring that holds a plastic escape vent in place. Larvae: Newly hatched lobsters hang on a column of water. Released: Release. Lobster: Crustacean species Homarus americanus. Molting: The process of shedding the shell to grow in size. Mutilated: Any female lobster that has the final fin on the right side of the center is mutilated in a way that will hide or obliterate the v-notch. Living room: Part of a lobster trap designed or intended to hold or hold a lobster until it is removed by fishermen. Personal use: For consumption or use by yourself, by a close family member or invited guest. Ownership: To have custody or control of a person, either personally, or by another person who is under the control of a person. Regeneration: To regrow the lost part. Residents: 1) If registered to vote, registered in Maine. 2) If licensed to drive a motor vehicle, it has made an application for a Maine motor vehicle operator license. 3) If the owner of one or more motor vehicles located within the State, has registered at least one of the motoring in Maine; and 4) If required to file a Maine income tax return on april 15, file a Maine income tax return. Rostrum: Sharp-boned projections or horns located above the eye socket. Runners: A A at the bottom of the lobster trap that prevents damage to the lobster claws and allows the trap to be pulled smoothly out of the water. Scrub: Artificial removal of female lobster eggs. Sell: To sell, offer to sell, or expose for sale. Shedder: The lobster is recently dimoli, producing a soft shell with a small amount of meat. Smack: The ship sails small with a tank in it that has a hole drilled into it to allow seawater to circulate. Smacks were developed in the 1800s to transport live lobsters over long distances. Trunk: The main upright wood or piece of metal at the bow of the boat, on which the sides of the boat join. Swimmers: Flaps are like structures located under the tail, with the first pair distinguishing males from females. Sunrise: The time given for sunrise as computational and set for Augusta, Maine by the U.S. Naval Observatory's Marine Almanac Office for the specific day involved, is converted to the legal standard of the time in force in Maine on that day. See the moments when the sun rises and sets at . Sunset: The time given for sunset as computational and set for Augusta, Maine by the U.S. Naval Naval Almanac Observatory office for the specific day involved, was converted to the legal standard of the time in force in Maine on that day. See the moments when the sun rises and sets at . Take: To remove or try to remove marine organisms from their natural habitat. Tomalley: Digestive glands that absorb food and toxins. Tomalley is unhealthy for human consumption and should be banished. Transfer: To transport by boat on water. Traps: Lobster traps, pots, or stationary contrivance or other devices that can be set on the seabed and used to pick up lobsters or crabs. V-Notch: A V-notch that differs from any size at the end of the fin on the center right. Ventral: The lower side of the lobster. Walking Feet: Long and thin legs used by lobsters for walking. Weak Link: The part between the buoy and the pot line that has a break strength of no more than 600 pounds. Pound.

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