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Department of
Marine Resources

Memo

To: Lobster Zone Council Members
From: Jessica McKay, License Eligibility Specialist
Date: February 1st – Posted on Internet
Re: 2010 New Zone Entrants for Limited-Entry Lobster Zones

As required by Maine's limited entry law, Title 12 M.R.S.A. §6448, the Commissioner of Marine Resources has determined the number of new zone entrants that may be authorized for each limited-entry lobster zone. Of the seven lobster zones, six zones have adopted regulations to limit the number of new zone entrants.

In accordance with 12 MRSA §6448 sub-§7, limited entry zones may adopt exit ratios to establish the number of licenses that may be issued to new zone entrants, based on the number of trap tags retired by individuals who did not renew their commercial license. The number of new zone entrants must be determined by dividing the number of trap tags available from license holders who did not renew their commercial license by the zone trap limit. The number of new zone entrants must be rounded down to the nearest whole number, and the remaining trap tags carried over to the following year's allocation.

Exceptions to the limited-entry process, such as medical and military waivers, are excluded from the totals for the purposes of calculating the number of new zone entrants as required by the limited-entry law.

Each lobster limited-entry zone has established an exit ratio to determine how many tags must be retired (not renewed) in order for a new zone entrant to be allowed into the zone. Following are the number of licenses awarded in 2010 for each limited-entry zone based on the exit ratio for that zone:

Zone A: 6 licenses awarded; based on a 1:3 Exit Ratio (1 new license for every 2,400 tags)
Zone B: 2 licenses awarded; based on a 1:5 Exit Ratio (1 new license for every 4,000 tags)
Zone D: 3 licenses awarded; based on a 1:5 Exit Ratio (1 new license for every 4,000 tags)
Zone E: 1 license awarded; based on a 1:5 Exit Ratio (1 new license for every 3,000 tags)
Zone F: 2 licenses awarded; based on a 1:5 Exit Ratio (1 new license for every 4,000 tags)
Zone G: 3 licenses awarded; based on a 1:5 Exit Ratio (1 new license for every 4,000 tags)

Certified letters have been sent to those individuals on the waiting list that are now authorized to purchase a 2010 license. These individuals have 30 days to buy their 2010 lobster and crab fishing license for that limited-entry zone or the next person on the waiting list is offered the slot.

Questions about the lobster licensing process should be addressed to License Eligibility Specialist, Department of Marine Resources, (207) 624-6549.