

Department of Marine Resources
NOTICE OF AGENCY RULE-MAKING PROPOSAL

RULE TITLE OR SUBJECT: Chapter 25.04 Lobster Trawl Limits
(C) Beals Island to Libby Island, Washington County

CONCISE SUMMARY: The proposed regulation would limit the number of traps per trawl to no more than four (4) in the vicinity of Beals Island to Libby Island. The boundary of the area would start at Kelly Point, Jonesport, to Freeman Rock, Jonesport, to a point approximately 9.7 statute miles due ENE or 60 degrees, then back to Cow Point, Roque Bluffs. The Zone A Lobster Management Council requested this proposed regulation, which is for purposes of preventing accidents and personal injuries as a result of trawls being set over regular trap gear.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 M.R.S. [§6446](#), [§6447](#)

PUBLIC HEARING: Mon., September 26, 2011, 6:00 pm, Jonesport Beals High School (Gym), 180 Snare Creek Lane, Jonesport

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: October 11, 2011

To ensure consideration, comments must include your name and the organization you represent, if any. Please be aware that any risk of non-delivery associated with submissions by fax or e-mail is on the sender.

AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Col. Joe Fessenden (207-624-6550)

Mail Written Comments to:

Department of Marine Resources

ADDRESS:

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E-MAIL: laurice.churchill@maine.gov TEL: (207) 633-9584 FAX:(207) 633-9579 TTY:(207) 633-9500 (Deaf/Hard of Hearing) Hearing facilities: If you require accommodations due to disability, please contact Amanda Beckwith, at (207) 287-7578.

Additional information:

Current law (12 M.R.S. [§6447](#)) allows Lobster Zone Management Councils to propose to the Commissioner of Marine Resources rules placing certain limitations on lobster and crab fishing license holders that fish in that zone. One of those limitations is the number of lobster traps allowed on a trawl. The Zone A Lobster Zone Management Council (LZMC) met on January 11, 2011 and voted 8 in favor and 1 abstention to send out a referendum to consider limiting the number of lobster traps on a trawl in the area described between Beals Island and Libby Island. A follow-up meeting with the Commissioner was held on March 11, 2011 in the Jonesport-Beals High School.

The referendum was mailed to 1,015 people (2010/2011 Zone A - Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, Class 1 Over 70, Class 2 Over 70 and Class 3 Over 70 Lobster License Holders) as of April 27, 2011, with a deadline to return the ballots postmarked by May 18, 2011. There were 240 responses or 24% returned. The overall referendum results were 77% of those voting supported limiting the number of traps on a trawl to no more than four (4) in the waters of Beals Island to Libby Island. The Zone A LZMC met on May 25, 2011 and voted to submit the 4-traps on a trawl limit in the waters of Beals Island to Libby Island proposed regulation to the Commissioner to be adopted as regulation. All 9 council members were present. The vote was 8 in favor and 1 opposed.

Proposed rulemaking – see underlined or ~~deleted~~ text below:

Chapter 25 - Lobster and Crab Fishing

25.04 Lobster Trawl Limits

C. Beals Island to Libby Island, Washington County

It shall be unlawful to have on any trawl more than 4 lobster traps in waters within the following area: A line starting at the Southeast tip of Kelly Point, Jonesport, thence following a southerly direction on a course of 170 degrees True to the most southern end of Freeman Rock, Jonesport (southwest of Moose Peak Light) as identified on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration nautical charts. Thence following a compass course 60 degrees True to the geographic coordinates N 44° 32.6' W 67° 21.1', Datum WGS84 (Loran 12009.5 25741.5). Thence following a compass course of 305 degrees True to the most southern tip of Cow Point, Roque Bluffs.