



Northeast Region Bulletin

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American Lobster Permit Holders

Establishment of a Control Date in the American Lobster Fishery

Effective Date: January 27, 2014

On January 27, 2014, we published a notice setting that date as the new control date for the Lobster Conservation Management Areas of the American lobster fishery. The control date was set at the request of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission). By establishing the control date, we are notifying the public that the Commission may consider an action to limit the number of permits or traps a business entity may own in the fishery. The control date should discourage speculative entry and investment in the American lobster fishery.

The control date, by itself, does not affect you at this time, but the Commission could use it as a reference point as it considers how to further limit the participation in Area 3 of the American lobster fishery or any other Lobster Conservation Management Areas. In developing a future action, the Commission may choose to use qualification criteria that do not incorporate the new control date. The Commission may also choose to take no further action to control participation in the American lobster fishery.

Frequently Asked Questions

When will this control date be used?	The Commission has not yet initiated an action to control excess capacity in the American lobster fishery, but it may choose to do so in the future.
Will this affect my access to Area 3 or any other areas?	This control date, by itself, does not affect your permit or fishing privileges. If the Commission relies on it in a future action, it may or may not affect the number of permits or traps you can own. Any future effects will depend on the measures developed by the Commission and your participation history. We encourage you to participate in the development of such actions by the Commission to better understand how such measures may affect you in the future.
How could it affect my access to Area 3 or any other areas?	If the Commission limits participants in the fishery, you may have to give up a number of permits or traps that you own. The Commission intends the control date to discourage speculative entry into Area 3 of the American lobster fishery while the Commission develops future measures but this date may also be used for any of the other Lobster Conservation Management Areas. You need take no action at this time.
What do I need to do?	Find and keep all documents associated with your participation in the American lobster fishery, including dealer slips/receipts and logbook pages from trips on which you landed American lobster. The Commission may use any range of fishing years in a future action, so you should preserve all American lobster documents that you have.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.