

PROSPECTIVE Canada Newfoundland and Labrador lobster - pot/trap

Overview

FIP Description

Quin Sea Fisheries Limited of St. John's, NL is proud to announce the commencement of the Newfoundland and Labrador Lobster Pot Fishery Improvement Project (FIP). Led by Quin Sea Fisheries, this project will seek partnerships to align and improve the fishery's management and science with the ultimate objective of achieving Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) fishery sustainability certification.

This FIP addresses the pot fishery for American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) in Lobster Fishing Areas 3 - 14, which operates in the waters surrounding the island of Newfoundland, completely within Canadian EEZ waters.

The fishery dates back to the 1870s and is localized and happens from small open boats during an 8-10 week spring fishing season. Traps are set close to shore, at depths generally less than 20 m. Fishing effort is controlled through restrictive licensing and daily trap limits. Regulations prohibit the harvest of undersized (i.e. <82.5 mm carapace length) and ovigerous animals. In addition, there is a voluntary practice called v-notching, which involves cutting a shallow mark in the tail fan of an ovigerous female. The mark is retained for at least 2-3 molts and notched females cannot be retained in the fishery. The practice thus serves to protect proven spawners even when they are not carrying eggs externally. The number of licenses is currently around 2,450 and trap limits range from 100 to 300 depending on the Lobster Fishing Area (DFO 2016).

The FIP intends to address all fishing practices in the legally permitted pot fishery.

How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:

Actions Progress This shows the proportion of actions in the workplan that the FIP has completed.

0%

FIP Type

Prospective

FIP Stage

Stage 1: FIP Development

Start and Projected End Dates**Species****Common Name**

American Lobster

Scientific Name

Homarus americanus

Gear Type

[Pot/Trap](#)

Location**FAO Major Fishing Area**

[Area 21 \(Atlantic, Northwest\)](#)

Exclusive Economic Zones**Country**

Canada

Geographic Scope

Newfoundland

FIP Leads

Organization Name

Quin Sea Fisheries Limited

Organization Type

Industry

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