

Canada Newfoundland and Labrador lobster - pot/trap

Overview

FIP Description

The Canada Newfoundland and Labrador Lobster Pot FIP was initially started by Quin Sea Fisheries Limited of St. John's, NL and has since been adopted for implementation and financial management by the Association of Seafood Producers (ASP) of Newfoundland and Labrador, also of St. John's, NL. ASP is an association comprised of numerous lobster buyers, live traders, and producers. ASP is also intricately involved in production and marketing of several other commercial species within the province.

Interested ASP member companies, as FIP participants, will collaborate with the regulator, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), to align and improve the fishery's management and science with the ultimate objective of achieving Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) fishery sustainability certification.

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

How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:

32%

64%

4%

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

6%

Actions Overview This shows the proportion of actions that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
67%	28%	6%	0%

FIP Progress Rating

C - Some Recent Progress

FIP Objective(s)

The Canada Newfoundland and Labrador lobster - pot/trap FIP objectives expected to be achieved by April 2027 are:

- Develop fishery-based metrics to be used in determining index-based stock status
- Benchmark effectiveness of metrics to confirm ongoing success of harvest strategy
- Update harvest strategy incorporating improved metrics, objectives and HCRs
- Standardize fishery monitoring metrics across all LFAs
- Determine bycatch interaction
- Determine bait species usage, provenance and impact on Primary & Secondary species
- Conduct a review of the potential effectiveness and practicality of alternative measures to minimize UoA-related mortality of unwanted catch of the target, Primary, Secondary and ETP species.
- Ensure adequate information from UoA impacts on primary, secondary and ETP species is collected and incorporated into key ecosystem status assessments.

FIP Type

Comprehensive

FIP Stage

Stage 4: Improvements in Fishing Practices or Fishery Management

Start and Projected End Dates

March, 2020 -
April, 2027

Species

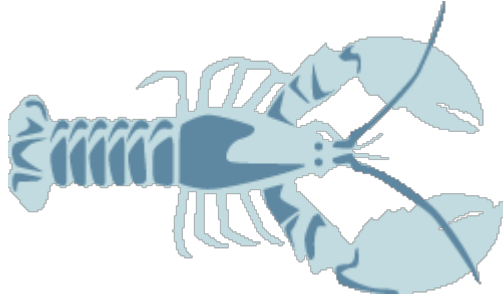
Common Name

American Lobster

Scientific Name

Homarus americanus

[Buying Guide Link Image](#)



[American Lobster](#)

[Buying Guide](#)

Gear Type

[Pot/Trap](#)

Location

FAO Major Fishing Area

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

Exclusive Economic Zones

Country

Canada

Geographic Scope

Newfoundland and Labrador

Country Flag of Vessel

Canada

Estimated Total FIP Landings

9382 metric tons

FIP Leads

Organization Name

Association of Seafood Producers

Organization Type

Other

Primary Contact

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Phone

709-726-3730

Website Name

[Association of Seafood Producers](#)

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