

## REQUEST FOR DATA TRANSFER - TO EXTERNAL CLIENT

### Purpose and description of data to be released:

**Purpose:** The purpose is to gather supporting evidence for the lobster Fishery Improvement Project (FIP). The information required reaches across several divisions within the department including C&P, habitat, species at risk, licensing and statistics. The following details the specifics of what is desirable information; however, due to confidentiality concerns annual or specific LFA information may not be available for disclosure. It is suggested that upon initial review of this request we discuss those items that may fall under the confidential category to determine if multi-year or broader area requests would be eligible for disclosure while remaining relevant to our needs.

### **Lobster Trap Escapement/Exclusion**

It is a requirement to clearly define by management area (4) the capture of undersize lobster. To that end we have the following questions:

1. Is the current minimum legal size (MLS) 82.5mm for all areas?
2. What year did this MLS increase in each area, and from what size?
3. For each wooden and metal traps, what license requirements are currently in place (e.g. lathe spacing size, escape vents) to permit escapement of undersize lobster? Did this requirement change when the MLS was increased?
4. Based on scientific versus commercial trap survey data in each management area what is the percent of lobster undersize in each type of trap for the two most current years of information? Can it be inferred that the difference between the undersize % in scientific traps less the undersize % in commercial traps is the percent of undersize that escape from commercial traps?
5. Are there any other studies or data that may quantify the conclusions that are derived from answers to question 4?
6. Are there any exclusion measures (e.g. ring size) that are specifically used to exclude extra large lobster from traps?
7. Can you please provide a current 'sample' condition of license?

### **Lobster and SARA Logs**

To better understand the current information gathered, determine compliance rates, and what has changed in recent years regarding data collection of lobster, bycatch and ETP species, we have developed the following questions:

1. Can you please provide the current lobster fishing and SARA logs?
2. When were these logs last changed? If changed in the past 3 years, can you please provide the prior version of each fishing and SARA logs?
3. For each LFA what has been the remittance rate for the fishing logs?

4. Is it a requirement to remit blank SARA logs?
5. For each LFA, what has been the remittance rate for SARA logs?
6. For each management area (4) what is the number of each SARA species captured, released alive, released dead, or seen (whales/turtles) for each of the past 3 years?
7. Are personal use volumes of lobster reported on the log? If so, what has been the volume of personal use versus volume declared captured for each of the past 3 years for each management area?
8. For each management area, what is the volume of landing declared on the log and what is the volume of landing from the landings slip for each of the same management areas for each of the past 3 years?
9. For index and at sea sampling fisheries, can you provide the data collection sheets that are used so we may derive specific questions regarding the available data?
10. From all log sources, what information is available regarding incidental bycatch species? Has there been any studies or research undertaken to qualify bycatch encounters by management area or LFA?

### **Bait Fisheries**

As bait use may comprise a significant portion of some species commercially captured, gathering source information regarding the number of bait licenses and amount captured will be used to qualify a survey we will be conducting of harvesters and bait providers.

For the most recent available 3 years for each licensed bait species herring, mackerel and squid:

1. How many licenses were issued?
2. How many of these licenses were active?
3. What was the reported and estimated catch overall?
4. How many years have bait license logs been used?
5. How many years has submission of bait license logs been mandatory?
6. Can an estimate of log submission compliance be provided? [required to extrapolate results]

### **Bait Use**

1. Are other sources of data, such as the index fishery, available that can provide some qualified quantity of bait use while fishing lobster?
2. Has there been any bait use surveys or estimates completed within the region, or nationally, for lobster fisheries, and is that information available? [e.g. total lbs/pot set, lbs by species/pot set, etc.

3. Is there any information from at-sea observation regarding bycatch species encounters (e.g. cod) being used as bait when the pot is reset?

## **ETP Species**

Information regarding observation and interaction with ETP species must be qualified, reported and periodically updated to achieve and maintain certification. Given that lobster trap vertical lines pose a potential risk of entanglement for whales and turtles, we require as much detail as possible regarding entanglements as well as capture of ETP species.

1. For each management area, can an estimate of number of traps per fleet be provided so that we may infer how many vertical lines are in the water?
2. For each management area what is the cumulative number of days in each of the past 3 years that traps have been in the water? [We are hoping to infer number of vertical lines in water in each area, as some harvesters are known to remove traps prior to the end of the season, thus reducing the number of line]
3. What specific gear measures are in place to mitigate ETP encounters and/or ensure live release? How have these changed in the past 3 years (e.g. NARW measures)?

<p><b>Note:</b> Caution must be exercised in use of these data as there may have been changes in such things as fishing gear and protocols, sample analyses methods, limits of quantification (LOQ), etc. It is strongly recommended that users consult with DFO staff concerning possible changes prior to the conduct of any analyses as changes as noted may have significant impacts on analyses results.</p>
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### Conditions for Release:

The data ARE NOT to be included in any table or appendix within resulting documents except in summary form, and any such inclusions will not occur without prior approval of DFO.

These data are not to be made available to any other group or individual without the express written permission of DFO.

### Client Contact (Name, Address, Phone No., Affiliation):

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Client Agreement:



Date: April 23, 2021

DFO Approval:

Custodian (Scientist): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Division Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_