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50 CFR Ch. VI (10–1–02 Edition)

(h) *EEZ Nearshore Outer Cape Lobster Management Area.* EEZ Nearshore Outer Cape Lobster Management Area is defined by the area, including state and Federal waters off Cape Cod, bounded by straight lines connecting the following points, in the order stated:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
F	42°10' N.	69°56' W.
G	42°05.5' N.	70°14' W.
G1	42°04.25' N.	70°17.22' W.
G2	42°02.84' N.	70°16.1' W.
G3	42°03.35' N.	70°14.2' W.
From Point G3 along the outer Cape Cod coast to Point H		
H	41°40' N.	70°00' W.
I	41°15' N.	70°00' W.
J	41°21.5' N.	69°16' W.
From Point "J" back to Point "F".		

(i) NMFS may, consistent with § 697.25, implement management measures necessary for each management area, in order to end overfishing and rebuild stocks of American lobster.

§ 697.19 Trap limits and trap tag requirements for vessels fishing with traps.

(a) *Trap limits for vessels fishing or authorized to fish in any Nearshore Management Area.* (1) Beginning January 5, 2000, through April 30, 2000, vessels fishing in any EEZ management area except EEZ Offshore Management Area 3, shall not fish with, deploy in, possess in, or haul back from such area more than 1,000 traps.

(2) Beginning May 1, 2000, vessels fishing in or issued a management area designation certificate or valid limited access American lobster permit specifying the EEZ Nearshore Management Area(s) and the Area 2/3 Overlap, or, only the Area 2/3 Overlap, shall not fish with, deploy in, possess in, or haul back from such area more than 800 traps.

(b) *Trap limits for vessels fishing or authorized to fish in the EEZ Offshore Management Area.* (1) Beginning January 5, 2000, through April 30, 2000, vessels fishing only EEZ Offshore Management Area 3, or, fishing only EEZ Offshore Management Area 3 and the Area 2/3 Overlap, shall not fish with, deploy in, possess in, or haul back from such area more than 2,000 traps.

(2) Beginning May 1, 2000, vessels fishing only in or issued a management

area designation certificate or valid limited access American lobster permit specifying only EEZ Offshore Management Area 3, or, specifying only EEZ Offshore Management Area 3 and the Area 2/3 Overlap, shall not fish with, deploy in, possess in, or haul back from such area more than 1,800 traps.

(c) *Trap tag requirements for vessels fishing with traps.* Beginning May 1, 2000, any lobster trap fished in Federal waters must have a valid Federal lobster trap tag permanently attached to the trap bridge or central cross-member.

(d) In any fishing year, the maximum number of tags authorized for direct purchase by each permit holder is the applicable trap limit specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section plus an additional 10 percent to cover trap loss.

(e) *Exemption.* Any vessel issued an Area 5 Trap Waiver permit under § 697.4(p) is exempt from the provisions of this section.

[64 FR 68248, Dec. 6, 1999, as amended at 66 FR 14502, Mar. 13, 2001]

§ 697.20 Size, harvesting and landing requirements.

(a) *Condition.* By being issued a Federal limited access American lobster permit, the vessel owner is subject to all measures in this subpart, unless otherwise specified, regardless of where American lobsters were harvested.

(b) *Carapace length.* (1) The minimum carapace length for all American lobsters harvested in or from the EEZ is 3¼ inches (8.26 cm).

(2) The minimum carapace length for all American lobsters landed, harvested, or possessed by vessels issued a Federal limited access American lobster permit, is 3¼ inches (8.26 cm).

(3) The maximum carapace length for all American lobster harvested in or from EEZ Nearshore Management Area 1, as defined in § 697.18(a)(1), is 5 inches (12.7 cm). Any vessel fishing in or permitted to fish in EEZ Nearshore Management Area 1 must comply with the 5 inch (12.7 cm) maximum carapace length requirement regardless of where the lobsters are harvested.

(4) No person may ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, or purchase, in interstate or foreign commerce, any

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whole live American lobster that is smaller than the minimum size specified in paragraph (b) in this section.

(c) *Mutilation.* (1) Subject to the rebuttable presumption in §697.7(c)(3), no person may remove meat or any body appendage from any American lobster harvested in or from the EEZ before, or at the time of landing, or have in possession any American lobster part other than whole lobsters, up to the time when a dealer first receives or possesses American lobster.

(2) Subject to the rebuttable presumption in §697.7(c)(3), no owner, operator or person aboard a vessel issued a Federal American lobster permit may remove meat or any body appendage from any American lobster before or at the time of landing, or have in possession any American lobster part other than whole lobsters, up to the time when a dealer first receives or possesses American lobster.

(d) *Berried females.* (1) Any berried female harvested in or from the EEZ must be returned to the sea immediately.

(2) Any berried female harvested or possessed by a vessel issued a Federal limited access American lobster permit must be returned to the sea immediately.

(3) No vessel, or owner, operator or person aboard a vessel issued a Federal limited access American lobster permit may possess any berried female.

(4) No person may possess, ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, or purchase, in interstate or foreign commerce, any berried female as specified in paragraph (d) of this section.

(e) *Removal of eggs.* (1) No person may remove, including, but not limited to, the forcible removal and removal by chemicals or other substances or liquids, extruded eggs attached to the abdominal appendages from any female American lobster.

(2) No owner, operator or person aboard a vessel issued a Federal limited access American lobster permit may remove, including but not limited to, the forcible removal, and removal by chemicals or other substances or liquids, extruded eggs attached to the abdominal appendages from any female American lobster.

(3) No person may possess, ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, or purchase, in interstate or foreign commerce, any whole live American lobster that bears evidence of the removal of extruded eggs from its abdominal appendages as specified in paragraph (e) of this section.

(f) *Spearing.* (1) No person may spear any American lobster in the EEZ.

(2) No person on a vessel issued a Federal lobster license may spear a lobster.

(3) No person may harvest or possess any American lobster which has been speared in the EEZ.

(4) No person may possess, ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, or purchase, in interstate or foreign commerce, any American lobster which has been speared.

§ 697.21 Gear identification and marking, escape vent, maximum trap size, and ghost panel requirements.

(a) *Gear identification and marking.* All lobster gear deployed or possessed in the EEZ, or, deployed or possessed by a person on or from a vessel issued a Federal limited access American lobster permit, and not permanently attached to the vessel must be legibly and indelibly marked with the following:

(1) *Identification.* Effective through April 30, 2000, all lobster gear must be marked with the following code of identification:

(i) A number assigned by the Regional Administrator; or

(ii) Whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.

(2) *Identification and trap tagging.* Beginning May 1, 2000, lobster gear must be marked with a trap tag (as specified in §697.19) with the following code of identification:

(i) A number assigned by the Regional Administrator; or

(ii) Whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.

(b) *Deployment and gear configuration.* In the areas of the EEZ described in paragraph (b)(4) of this section, lobster trap trawls are to be displayed and configured as follows:

(1) Lobster trap trawls of three or fewer traps deployed in the EEZ must