Overview of Stock Status
Gulf of Maine & Georges Bank Stocks of American Lobster, *Homarus americanus*

Gulf of Maine Lobster Abundance Reference Points, 1982 - 2007
Source: ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment, 2009

Gulf of Maine Lobster Exploitation Reference Points, 1982 - 2007
Source: ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment, 2009

Georges Bank Lobster Abundance Reference Points, 1982 - 2007
Source: ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment, 2009

Georges Bank Lobster Exploitation Reference Points, 1982 - 2007
Source: ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment, 2009

Timeline of Management Actions: Amendment 3 ('97); Addendum I ('99); Addendum II ('01); Addendum III ('02); Addenda IV & V ('04); Addenda VI & VII ('05); Addenda X & XI ('07); Addendum XIII ('08); Addendum XIV ('09); Addendum XV ('09); Addendum XVI ('10); Addendum XVII ('11); Addendum XVIII ('12); Addenda XIX – XXIII ('03)

December 2013
Overview of Stock Status
Southern New England Stock of American Lobster, Homarus americanus

Source: ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment, 2009

Source: ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment, 2009

Timeline of Management Actions:
Amendment 3 (‘97); Addendum I (‘99); Addendum II (‘01); Addendum III (‘02); Addenda IV & V (‘04); Addenda VI & VII (‘05); Addenda X & XI (‘07); Addendum XIII (‘08); Addendum XIV (‘09); Addendum XV (‘09); Addendum XVI (‘10); Addendum XVII (‘11); Addendum XVIII (‘12); Addenda XIX – XXIII (‘03)

Management Considerations:
Condition FMP:
Gulf of Maine – Favorable abundance; exploitation falls in the middle of the range
Georges Bank – Abundance and exploitation are in favorable condition
Southern New England – Abundance is below reference point limit; Board action is required to rebuild stock

Stock Rebuilding Goals:
Addendum XVI establishes a four-tiered approach to define abundance reference points in the Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Georges Bank (GBK), a four-tiered approach to define exploitation reference points for all three stock units, and a three-tiered approach to define abundance reference points for Southern New England (SNE). The Board set the SNE abundance reference points to a lower target level than the GOM and GBK stocks because it believes the SNE stock has limited ability to rebuild to higher historical levels.

FMP Status:
Amendment 3 (Dec 1997) and Addenda I – XIV, established 7 management areas and specific management measures to meet the rebuilding schedule by 2022. Addendum XII establishes guidelines for areas implementing a transferable trap program. Addendum XIII finalized the Outer Cape Cod’s effort control plan. Addendum XIV alters LCMA trap transfer program. Addendum XV establishes limited entry for LCMA 1 federal water fishermen. Addendum XVI establishes new biological reference points to determine stock status for three stock units. Addendum XVII institutes a 10% reduction in exploitation by all fishing sectors and all gear types starting January 1, 2013 as the first phase in the Board’s efforts to rebuild the Southern New England stock. Addendum XVIII and XIX, address the second phase of rebuilding efforts by proposing area-specific measures to scale the scope of the Southern New England fishery to the size of the resource. Addendum XX, approved in 2013, establishes bottom-sharing in Closed Area 2 in order to protect large concentrations of egg-bearing females and prevent gear conflicts. Addenda XXI and XXII, approved in 2013, implement changes to the trap transferability program for Areas 2 and 3.

Primary Management Measures: Lobster is managed through 7 specific management areas. Each area has unique regulations that could include minimum/maximum size limits, trap limits, and v-notching definitions.