Final Results
Federal Lobster Trap Area Eligibility Program

State, Federal, and Constituent Programs Office
NMFS, Northeast Region

ASMFC Lobster Board Meeting
August 14, 2006
• Consistent with Commission recommendations in Addendum I to Amendment 3 of Lobster ISFMP

- Cap and control trap fishing effort in Areas 3, 4 and 5
- Limited access program for the Federal lobster trap fishery
- Eligibility based on proven historical participation during the qualification period
Area 3, 4 and 5 Trap Fishery
Eligibility Requirements

• Eligibility is based on permit history
• Application period April 28-December 31, 2003
• Required proof of:
  - Current Federal lobster permit
  - Fishing history of Federal permit during a single year within March 25, 1991 - September 1, 1999
  - 200 traps fished over a two consecutive months in chosen qualifying year
  - Total number of traps fished in each area
  - Minimum of 25,000 lbs. of lobster landed during qualifying year (Area 3 only)
Rulemaking and Application Review

- Several opportunities for public comment prior to implementation:
  - 4 coast-wide public hearings;
  - 9 separate opportunities for written comments from 9/99 to 1/03;
  - the need to apply discussed during Add. IV public hearings in 2003;
- News releases, permit holder letters and compliance guide;
- Nine month application period;
- Broader eligibility period due to Federal law;
- Allowed vessel logs and other credible documentation – not restricted to VTR or state records only;
- Process considered differential coast-wide reporting/record keeping requirements;
- Allowed applicants ample opportunity to provide sufficient documentation, not just one chance;
- Provided updated information on website regarding application process.
Summary of Eligibility Decisions

• 301 applications received and reviewed
• Area 3: 139 approved; 54 denied
• Area 4: 81 approved; 24 denied
• Area 5: 42 approved; 14 denied
• 11 appeals, 5 granted eligibility, 6 rejected
• Enforcement agents investigated several cases, resulting in at least 1 allocation change.
# Eligibility Determinations by Area, by State

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301 applications received, each representing a single vessel/permit history.

*Indicates a value of less than 3 permits. Total number not disclosed for confidentiality reasons.

Note: A single application may have more than one area represented as approved or denied, if multiple areas were requested in the application.
Cumulative Trap Allocations by Area

Initial Approved Allocations vs. 2006 Maximum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCMA</th>
<th>Total # Traps Proven in Applications*</th>
<th>Trap Ceiling in 2006 (maximum allowable traps)**</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area 3</td>
<td>211,408</td>
<td>172,627</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area 4</td>
<td>82,837</td>
<td>80,456</td>
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<td>Area 5</td>
<td>34,469</td>
<td>32,084</td>
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*total number of traps allocated based on demonstrated fishing history after all applications fully reviewed.

**considers 2006 reductions for Area 3 and 1,440 trap cap for Areas 4 and 5
Trap Allocation Ranges for Eligible Federal Lobster Permits
Areas 3, 4 and 5

Considers Area 3 Trap Cap and Reductions Through 2006 and 1,440 Trap Cap in Areas 4 and 5.
Area 3, 4 and 5 Federal Lobster Permits
2002* vs. 2006**

*In 2002, Federal vessels could select any and all LCMAs.
**Total number of qualified permits after review of all applications and appeals, March 2006.
Number of Traps by Area: Before and After Program Implementation

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<th>LCMA</th>
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The chart shows the number of traps before and after the program implementation, categorized by LCMA (Local Coastal Management Area) numbers. The chart includes data from NMFS Best Estimate (FEIS 2000), Initial Allocations for Approved Applications, and Adjusted Final Allocations with Trap Reduction Schedule and Trap Caps (2006).
Key Accomplishments
Lobster Trap Area Eligibility Program

• Controlled effort
  – limited entry, capped number of vessels
  – capped overall number of traps by area

• Eliminated latent effort and prevented future effort shifts and trap escalation

• Established a firm baseline of effort to facilitate future management decisions