



COMMERCIAL FISHERIES LOBSTER UPDATE LFA 23

To: Chiefs, Allison Metallic, Everett Martin, David Peter Paul, CEO of GMRC
Mark Sark

From: Brian Isaac, Commercial Fisheries Liaison Coordinator

Date: December 1, 2008

Re: Southern Gulf Lobster Report Follow – up (*Harvesting Strategies, Effort Reduction and Productivity*)

A letter dated November 20, 2008 addressed to the “Chiefs and /or Fisheries Coordinators” from DFO was issued inviting the aforementioned to attend a consultative pre-meeting scheduled for November 26th, 2008. Their intent was to discuss and prepare for a follow-up on the 2007 FRCC report meeting of October 20-21st 2008. That follow-up meeting was scheduled for the following day, where DFO proposed a strategy on harvesting that involved issues of effort reduction and productivity. The pre-meeting was chaired by, Rhéal Vienneau, Director of Resource Management DFO. Also representing DFO was Monique Baker, Senior Advisor Snow Crab/Lobster.

(Area of concern, on the onset was DFO was viewing our presence as a table of consultation).

Both First Nation and Non Native lobster harvesting groups agreed to the reality of the industry being less economically viable. Much is credited to low productivity, that a major contributor is that the existing legal size does not allowing enough lobster to spawn. DFO is proposing a 50% reduction in catches and a new legal size.

Reduction effort proposals are being required of fishing groups to be submitted by January 9th 2009 to be reviewed by an advisory group. First Nations are not required to make a submission but can if they wish. There are 5 key areas to consider in DFO's criteria of their long-term goal, which they hope to achieve by 2018.



- Reduce number of days fished at the end of the season up to 14 days
- Reduce number of traps / 164 to 176 per license
- Maximum carapace size 72mm-79mm/125mm-115mm
- Minimum number of traps per line at 3-10
- Maximum hoop size between 152mm-and less than 127mm

Note these are for LFA 23.

(Area of concern: How does this impact Food & Ceremonial Harvesting, DFO makes claim that it will have some impact. How does it impact Communal Licenses? DFO claims Communal Licenses are the same as individual licenses, & what consideration is being made towards the on-going initiatives already undertaken by First Nations, DFO made no comment on this. LFA23 consists of 759 licenses of which 60 licenses are First Nations, which places FN participation in the gulf at only 8% of the industry brings serious question as to how this impacts access and accommodation with respect to Marshall).

The following changes will be introduced in 2011 with full implementation by 2018
(See charts included)

Recommendations/Options:

- Request DFO to arrange a meeting for FN with David Balfour, National Director General of Aboriginal Policy and Governance to clarify FN position on Consultation, to clarify FN's position to DFO's on Communal Licenses, Food & Ceremonial from Non FN individual commercial licenses.
- Request DFO to create a table for dialogue with FN to begin a foundation towards increasing better relations with FN and Non FN fisher associations.
- *Develop a commercial lobster-harvesting plan that fits the needs of your community.*
- *Develop an Effort Reduction proposal, which best reflects your understanding productivity and ensuring rights based presence in the commercial lobster fisheries.*

Short Term Biological Goal (2009 - 2011)

Set minimum carapace size for lobster based on allowing 50% of mature females to be protected from fishery

- . minimum carapace size of 72mm in LFAs 23, 24, 25, 26A and 75mm in 26B by 2011
- . minimum carapace size increase of 1mm
- . appropriate size escape mechanism by 2011

Long Term Goal (2009 - 2018)

- Reduce exploitation rate by 10% by 2018
- Increase productivity
- Strengthen stewardship of the resource

Effort reduction and productivity are linked:

- . The higher the productivity levels less need to reduce effort and vice versa
- . However, must move forward somewhat on both effort reduction and productivity
- . Other than biological criteria, no other measures are needed until 2011
- . Credit given for measures implemented since 2005

Proportion of long-term goal achieved (%)	0	1 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 30	31 to 40	41 to 50	51 to 60	61 to 70	71 to 80	81 to 90	91 to 100
Rating	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Reduce Effort

Increase Productivity

Strengthen Stewardship

Total Needed

Minimum points needed = 3

Maximum points allowed = 5

Maximum points allowed = 2

10

Example of Lobster Management Plan 2009 - 2018

Effort reduction points needed = 3

Productivity points maximum = 5

Strengthen stewardship maximum = 2

Year	New Management Measures	Points
Fictitious LFA (2 points already on stewardship)		2
2009	Meet short term goal	
2010		
2011		
2012	6 traps per line	2
2013	Eliminate 1 day at end of season as part of eliminating 3	0
2014	Maximum hoop size 127 mm	2
2015	Eliminate 1 day at end of season as part of eliminating 3	0
2016	None	0
2017	Eliminate 1 day at end of season as part of eliminating 3	2
2018	Maximum carapace size 120mm	2
Total		10