



American Lobster Management Board



March 14, 2024



American Lobster Draft Addendum XXX

Foreign Import Minimum Size Recommendation



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March 2024

Background



- Addendum XXVII (2023) GOM/GBK SSB Protection
 - established a trigger mechanism to implement a series of gauge and vent size changes when a trigger is reached
- Trigger = 35% decline in the trigger index from the reference period (2016-2018)
 - Trigger index declined by 39% with inclusion of 2022 data
- Board delayed implementation of Addendum XXVII measures to January 1, 2025

Addendum XXVII Measures



Changes to Management Measures Initiated When 35% Trigger Level is Reached

Area	LCMA 1	LCMA 3	OCC
Current Measures (Year 0)	Min gauge: 3 ¼" Max gauge: 5" Vent size: status quo	Min gauge: 3 ¹⁷ / ₃₂ " Max gauge: 6 ¾" Vent size: status quo	Min gauge: 3 ⅜" Max gauge: 6 ¾" Vent size: status quo
Measures for Year 1 (Jan 1, 2025)	Min gauge size: 3 ⅝" (84 mm)	Status quo	Status quo
Measures for Year 3 (Jan 1, 2027)	Min gauge size: 3 ⅜" (86 mm)	Status quo	Status quo
Measures for Year 4 (Jan 1, 2028)	Vent size: 2 x 5 ¾" rectangular; 2 ⅝" circular	Status quo	Status quo
Measures for Year 5 (Jan 1, 2029)	Status quo	Max gauge size: 6 ½"	Max gauge size: 6 ½"

Mitchell Provision



- Magnuson-Stevens prohibits import/sale of whole, live lobsters smaller than the minimum possession size in effect under the Commission FMP (Mitchell Provision)
- The purpose of Draft Addendum XXX is to clarify the Commission's recommendation to NOAA fisheries regarding the smallest minimum size in effect as the minimum gauge size increases occur in LCMA 1 in 2025 and 2027

Recommendation to NOAA



- Commission recommends imports from other countries be restricted to the smallest LCMA minimum size in effect
 - $3 \frac{5}{16}$ " in 2025, and $3 \frac{3}{8}$ " in 2027
 - Minimum size of live lobster coming into the US would not be any smaller than smallest lobster that can be legally landed by US industry

Timeline & Next Steps



Timeline	Action
January 2024	Board initiated Draft Addendum XXX
February 2024	Draft Addendum developed
March 2024	Board considers Draft Addendum XXX for public comment
March-May	Public comment period
August 2024	Review public comment, consider draft addendum for final approval - Forward recommendations to NOAA

Board Action



- Consider any changes to Draft Addendum XXX
- Approve Draft Addendum XXX for public comment



Questions?

Motions

Move to approve Draft Addendum XXX for public comment as modified today.

Motion made by Ms. Patterson and seconded by Dr. McNamee. Motion passes by unanimous consent.