

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

AMERICAN LOBSTER

Technical Committee Call and Webinar

Friday, December 8, 2023

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Webinar: <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/849247686>

You can also dial in using your phone

Phone: +1 (650) 419-1505; Access Code: 849247686

1. **Welcome & Review of the Agenda** (*T. Pugh, C. Starks*) 1:00 p.m.
2. **Review Board Task** (*C. Starks*) 1:05 p.m.
 - *Move to task the Lobster Technical Committee (TC) to compile information on the lobster resource and fishery in and around the Northern Edge on Georges Bank. This is in relation to a potential action at the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) which is considering scallop fishery access on the Northern Edge. A starting place for this tasking could be reviewing information that the Lobster TC compiled when ASMFC commented on the NEFMC's Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2. Areas of interest include:*
 - *Information on the presence and abundance of lobsters, including ovigerous lobsters, in and around the Northern Edge by month/season*
 - *Lobster fishery effort in and around the Northern Edge by month/season*
 - *Potential impacts of mobile gear on the lobster population in the area*
 - *Information on the habitat type and depth preference of lobsters which could inform our understanding of lobsters on the northern edge if there are limitations in the data*
 - *Whether current reporting by Area 3 vessels is representative, or an underestimate, of lobster effort in the Northern Edge area and how future requirements (i.e., federal eVTR requirement, vessel tracking) will impact the data available*
3. **Technical Committee Discussion** (*T. Pugh*) 1:15 p.m.
 - Identify available data to address each part of request
 - Task TC members with compiling and analysis of data
4. **Next Steps** (*C. Starks*) 1:50 p.m.
 - Establish timeline for task completion
 - Schedule follow up call
5. **Other Business/Adjourn** 2:00 p.m.