



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

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Declaration of Regulation Change (15-03)

Under authority of Section 26-142a(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection is authorized to order the emergency closure of any fishery if such closure is necessary to conform to regulations adopted under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-265, as amended) or by other regional fishery management authorities.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) American Lobster Fishery Management Plan Addendum XVII requires the states of New York and Connecticut to enact such a season closure in 2015 in Lobster Management Area 6, which encompasses all Connecticut state waters.

In accordance with the aforementioned authority, the following sections of departmental regulations are amended as specified on page 2 of this Declaration.

This declaration replaces declaration D14-07 effective April 1, 2015 and shall remain in effect through March 31, 2016 or until amended or superseded by subsequent action.

Sec. 26-157c. Regulations governing the taking and possession of lobsters.

- 26-157c-1. Taking lobsters – general
- 26-157c-2. Taking lobsters – pots and traps



Robert J. Klee
Commissioner

3/23/15
Date

Declaration 15-03

26-157c-1. Taking lobsters – general

(a) Definitions

- (1) “ASMFC” means the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, created under the terms of an interstate compact ratified by the State of Connecticut (section 26-295 of the Connecticut General Statutes) and approved by the U. S. Congress (Public Law 539, Chapter 283, Second Session, 77th Congress; 56 Stat. 267, approved May 4, 1942, as amended by Public Law 721, 81st Congress, approved August 19, 1950).
- (2) “American Lobster Fishery Management Plan” or “FMP” means the plan and its amendments and addendums approved and published by the ASMFC to manage the interstate lobster fishery.
- (4) “LMA” means any lobster management area as defined in the FMP.
- (10) “LMA 6 closed season” means September 8 to November 28, both dates inclusive.

(g) During the LMA 6 closed season, no person engaged in commercial fishing or lobster fishing for personal use shall possess or land lobsters taken from LMA 6 by any method.

26-157c-2. Taking lobsters – pots and traps

- (g) Except as provided in subsections (h) and (i) of this section, no lobster pot may be left in the water during the LMA 6 closed season.
- (h) Between September 8 and September 21, both dates inclusive, a gear-removal grace period is established and between November 15 and November 28, both dates inclusive, a gear-resetting grace period is established, provided no lobster pot is baited during the LMA 6 closed season before one-half hour before sunrise on November 22.
- (i) Holders of a license to take conchs issued by the Department of Agriculture under the authority of section 26-219 of the Connecticut General Statutes may use lobster pots to take conch or whelk during the LMA 6 closed season provided no finfish or crustaceans are taken or possessed on the same trip and such lobster pots are being actively fished. For the purposes of this subsection, actively fished means the pots are baited for conch or whelk and all such pots are tended at least weekly.