

RIMFR Part 5 – Lobster, Crabs, and Other Crustaceans
Jonah and Atlantic Rock Crab

March 23, 2016 Public Hearing

Final (filed) Annotated Regulations

5.5 Jonah Crab:

5.5.1 Recreational:

(A) No license required: No license is required for the recreational harvest of Jonah crab in Rhode Island waters.

(B) Season: Open all year.

(C) Possession limit: Fifty (50) whole Jonah crabs per person per day.

5.5.2 Commercial:

(A) License required: No person shall harvest Jonah crab for commercial purposes without a valid commercial marine fishing license.

(B) Eligibility for participation: Any person who holds a lobster trap allocation (LTA), or any person who does not hold an LTA but can prove participation in the Jonah crab fishery prior to the control date, shall be eligible for continued participation in the fishery. Proof of participation shall be documented by RI Harvester Logbooks and/or SAFIS dealer reports.

(C) Minimum size: Four and three quarters (4.75) inches as measured across the widest point of the carapace.

(D) Minimum escape vent and maximum trap size: Minimum escape vent and maximum trap size for a trap utilized in the taking of Jonah crab shall meet the requirements as specified in section 5.2 of these regulations pertaining to lobster pots.

(E) Season: Open all year.

(F) Possession limit:

(1) For persons holding a Lobster Trap Allocation (LTA): Unlimited.

(2) By gillnet or otter trawl (i.e., non-trap gear): One thousand (1,000)

crabs per vessel per calendar day.

(3) By gear types other than gillnets or otter trawls (i.e., non-lobster trap gear): One thousand (1,000) crabs per vessel per calendar day.

(G) Harvest restrictions:

(1) Egg-bearing Jonah crabs: No person shall take, offer for sale, or possess at any time any female Jonah crab bearing eggs visible thereon or from which the egg pouch or bunion shall have been removed.

(2) Only whole Jonah crab may be retained and sold.

5.5.2 Control date: The control date for the Jonah Crab fishery is June 2, 2015.

5.6 Atlantic Rock Crab:

5.6.1 Control date: The control date for the Atlantic Rock Crab fishery is June 1, 2016.