



Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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TO: Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council

FROM: Mark Gibson, Deputy Chief for Marine Fisheries DFW

DATE: September 9, 2004

SUBJECT: Director's Decision on June 15, 2004 Marine Fisheries Hearing Items

The following are the decisions rendered by the Director of DEM. regarding the June 15, 2004 public hearing.

Change closed season for recreational black sea bass to September 8 – September 21 in order to allow fishing over labor day weekend: The Director, based on recommendations from both the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council and the Division of Fish and Wildlife, decided to adopt the date changes as written above.

Modify season and possession limit for the commercial striped bass fish traps: The Director, based on recommendations from the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the lack of a recommendation from the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council, decided to remain at status quo regarding the floating fish trap striped bass fishery.

Changes to commercial lobster regulations stemming from Addendum 4 and Addendum 5 to the ASMFC Lobster Management Plan which includes changes to minimum gauge sizes, transferable trap allocations, most restrictive rule, escape vent sizes, and effort reduction measures:

Minimum gauge size increase schedule for RI inshore waters: The Director, based on recommendations from both the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council and the Division of Fish and Wildlife, decided to adopt the minimum gauge increase schedule.

Most restrictive rule interpretation: The Director, based on recommendations from the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC), the public comment received at the hearing, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife, decided to adopt the most restrictive rule language and the interpretation as given in examples written in the July 6, 2004 RIMFC meeting minutes.

Minimum gauge size increases for lobster fishery management area 2: The Director, based on recommendations from both the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council and the Division of Fish and Wildlife, decided to adopt the minimum gauge increase schedule for Lobster Statistical Area 2.

Minimum escape vent size increases for lobster fishery management area 2: The Director, based on recommendations from both the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council and the Division of Fish and Wildlife, decided to adopt the minimum escape vent size increase schedule for Lobster Statistical Area 2.

Lobster fishery management area 2 effort control measures: The Director, based on recommendations from the Division of Fish and Wildlife and taking in to account the suggestions from the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council, decided to adopt the effort control measures, with the exception of the lobster trap transferability section, for Lobster Statistical Area 2.

Minimum gauge size increases for lobster fishery management area 3: The Director, based on recommendations from both the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council and the Division of Fish and Wildlife, decided to adopt the minimum gauge increase schedule for Lobster Statistical Area 3.

Minimum escape vent size increases for lobster fishery management area 3: The Director, based on recommendations from both the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council and the Division of Fish and Wildlife, decided to adopt the minimum escape vent size increase schedule for Lobster Statistical Area 3.

Minimum escape vent size increases for the outer cape lobster fishery management area: The Director, based on recommendations from both the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council and the Division of Fish and Wildlife, decided to adopt the minimum escape vent size increase schedule for the outer cape Lobster Statistical Area.

Trap transferability program: The Director, based on recommendations from both the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council and the Division of Fish and Wildlife, recommends deferring action on this item until after the August ASMFC meeting or until a directive is handed down from the ASMFC.

Repeal lobster exemption certificate program for undersized area 3 lobsters: The Director, based on recommendations from the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the lack of a recommendation from the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council, decided to repeal the lobster exemption certificate program for undersized area 3 lobsters.