

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Chapter 26 - Sea Urchin Regulations

26.07 Sea Urchin Harvesting Season ~~2011-2012-2010-2011~~ pursuant to 12 M.R.S. §6749

2. Zone 2 [as defined by 12 M.R.S. §6749-N(2)]

A. Early season for divers, trappers and rakers

The Zone 2 season for divers, trappers and rakers who have certified the early season on forms provided by the Commissioner, is open September 19 to 21 and 26 to 28; Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the month of October; Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the month of November except Wednesdays, November 2 and 9 are closed; and Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the month of December plus Thursdays, December 15 and 22, 2011. ~~September 22 to 24, 27 to 29; and Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays in the months of October, November and December 2010 plus Thursday, December 16, 2010 and Wednesday, except December 29, 2010 is closed.~~

B. Early season for draggers

The Zone 2 season for draggers who have certified the early season on forms provided by the Commissioner, is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the months of October, November and December 2011; plus Thursdays, December 15 and 22, 2011; and January 2 to 4 and 9, 2012. ~~Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays in the months of October, November and December 2010 plus Thursday, December 16, 2010 is open and except Wednesday, December 29, 2010 is closed; plus and January 3 to 5 and 10 to 12, 2011.~~

C. Late season for divers, trappers, rakers and draggers

The Zone 2 season for divers, trappers, rakers, and draggers who have certified the late season on forms provided by the Commissioner, is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the month of December 2011 plus Thursdays, December 15 and 22, 2011; Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the month of January 2012; Mondays and Tuesdays in the month of February 2012 plus Wednesday, February 29, 2012; and Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the month of March 2012 except Wednesdays, March 21 and 28 plus Monday, March 26 and Tuesday, March 27, 2012 are closed. ~~Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays in the months of December 2010 and January 2011 plus Thursday, December 16, 2010 except Wednesday, December 1, 2010 is closed; and February 1, 7, 8, 14 to 16, 21 to 23 and 28, 2011; and March 1, 2, 7 to 9, 14 to 16 and 21, 2011.~~

D. Designation of Zone 2 early or late season:

- (1) A person who holds a sea urchin harvesting license for Zone 2 may not harvest sea urchins in Zone 2 unless that person certifies on forms provided by the Commissioner that the person will fish for or take sea urchins during either the early season or the late season.
- (2) A person who has certified the early or late season may, between May 1<sup>st</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup> change that certification to the other time period as the time period in which that person will fish for or take sea urchins.

**Insert this proposed calendar as if underlined (at the end of Ch. 26):**

## 2011 - 2012 Sea Urchin Season For Maine Zone 2

= Open     = Closed

### Early Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

September 2011						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2011						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2011						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2011						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### Early Season for Dragger

October 2011						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2011						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2011						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2012						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### Late Season for Divers, Dragger, Rakers, and Trappers

December 2011						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2012						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2012						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March 2012						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# Basis Statement

Sea Urchin Harvesting Season 2011-2012 ~~2010-2011~~  
Zone 2

In 2004, survey results and computer models showed the lowest sea urchin biomass in Zone 2 since the fishery began. The stock had declined to about a sixth of its original size. According to annual surveys in 2005 - 2010, there has been no significant improvement since 2004. Given our experiences in Zone 1, the rapid decline of this stock in both zones, the sea urchin's biological requirements, and the consistent over-fishing and decline of sea urchin stocks worldwide, the Department advocates caution. Therefore the 2011-2012 sea urchin harvesting season will be the same number of days as the previous 45 day season.

Due to continuing poor stock conditions in Zone 2 the short season is designed to allow limited participation by harvesters without seriously threatening stock recovery. The degree of the continued season reduction (compared with the 94-day 2003-04 season) will impose hardship upon Maine's sea urchin industry in the short term. However, no alternative regulatory approach is available at this time that would lessen the economic burdens imposed upon the regulated citizens, without jeopardizing the viability of the urchin stock for the future.

Following the recommendations of the Sea Urchin Zone Council (SUZC) the Commissioner implements the dates selected by the Council for the Zone 2 season.

## Summary of Comments

Sea Urchin Harvesting Season 2011-2012 ~~2010-2011~~  
Zone 2

Two public hearings were held for several rulemaking items on July 11 and 14, 2011 in Yarmouth and Ellsworth. No comments were made on the proposed Zone 2 urchin season rules at the hearings or in writing. Written comments received about the Zone 1 urchin season may be found in the separate Zone 1 rulemaking.

### Hearing attendees (Yarmouth)

Jodie Jordan, Cape Elizabeth, Lobster Management Council member, Zone F, district 2  
DMR: M. Hunter, T. DeGraaf, Lt. Cornish, L. Churchill

### Hearing attendees (Ellsworth)

James West, Sorrento (lobster, scallop, shrimp, mussel)  
DMR: T. DeGraaf, Lt. Sprowl, L. Churchill

### Written comments

None