

Marine Lobster and Crab Bait Classifications



The following list includes marine species that have been reviewed by the Department of Marine Resources. It is illegal to sell or use any part of or whole marine or freshwater organism as bait to fish for or take lobsters or crabs that is classified as “prohibited”, or that has not been reviewed by the Department. Bait dealers may be granted an exemption that allows them to sell a “prohibited” bait if they agree to follow specific procedures that the Department considers sufficient to remediate the risks of introduction (e.g. establishing a chain of custody, pre-importation testing, processing). **Individuals may apply for review of a non-listed bait source, or petition for use of a prohibited bait source by completing the “Lobster and Crab Bait Review Form”.** If you have questions regarding the use or sale of a bait source, contact Sarah Cotnoir sarah.cotnoir@maine.gov or (207) 624-6596. Applications and additional information about the use of lobster and crab bait is available at <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rm/lobster/index.htm> under “Commercial Fishing, Lobsters, Maine Lobster Management.”

Marine Approved		
Species	Restrictions	Region of Origin
Any Species in the NEFMC Groundfish Complex		Gulf of Maine or Georges Bank
Atlantic Cod		US East Coast & Canada East Coast
Atlantic Herring		US East Coast & Canada East Coast
Balao (<i>Hemiramphus balao</i>)	Must be frozen	Florida/FAO 31
Ballyhoo (<i>Hemiramphus brasiliensis</i>)	Must be frozen	Florida/FAO 31
Blackbelly Rosefish (<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>)	Must be frozen and chain of custody must be maintained.	Uruguay
Croaker		US East Coast
Halibut		Atlantic & Pacific Ocean
Gulf Menhaden (<i>Brevoortia patronus</i>)	Must be frozen	Gulf of Mexico
Jamaican Weakfish (<i>Cynoscion jamaicensis</i>)	Wild caught, frozen, racks only	Suriname
King Weakfish (<i>Macrodon ancylodon</i>)	Wild caught, frozen, racks only	Suriname
Kinky (aka rockfish, long/short spinyhead, idiotfish) (Genus <i>Sebastolobus</i>)	Must be frozen	US West Coast & Canada West Coast
Lingcod		Atlantic & Pacific Ocean
Mackerel (<i>Scomber japonicus</i>)	Must be frozen if from China	US East Coast, Japan, Portugal and China
Mullet (Genus <i>Mugilidae</i>)		US & Canada
Orange Roughy		Australia & New Zealand
Menhaden (aka Pogie, Bunker)		US East Coast
Patagonian toothfish	Must be frozen	Australia and Argentina
Pollock		Atlantic Ocean <i>only</i>
Redfish		N. Atlantic Ocean & Pacific Ocean
Red Alphonsino		NE Atlantic Ocean
Roundnose Grenadier		NE Atlantic Ocean
River herring (alewife, blueback herring)		Maine
Rockfish (Genus <i>Sebastes</i>)	Must be frozen	US West Coast & Canada West Coast
Sablefish		Alaska & Western Canada
Skate		US Northeast Coast
Shad		Maine
Sole		US West Coast
Southern Kingfish (<i>Menticirrhus americanus</i>)	Wild caught, frozen, racks only	Suriname
Tuna		North Pacific Ocean
Any species that was legally caught in Maine coastal waters, except as otherwise prohibited in regulation		

Marine Prohibited		
Species	Region of Origin	Unacceptable Risk
Any salmonid fish species (prohibited pursuant to DMR Chapter 24.23)		
Alphonsino	New Zealand	Exotic pathogens
Atka Mackerel (<i>Pleurogrammus Menopterygius</i>)	North Pacific Ocean, Alaska	Exotic pathogens
Bonito	Panama West Coast	Exotic pathogens
Cobia	South Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea	Unknown pathogen status
Cod	US West Coast & Canada West Coast	Possibility of exotic agent
Eulachon (<i>Thaleichthys pacificus</i>)	Alaska	Exotic pathogens
Flatfish	Pacific Ocean	Possibility of exotic agent
Hake	US West Coast	Exotic pathogens
Horseshoe Crab	Asia	Possibility of invasives
Monkfish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>)	FAO Major Fishing Area 27	Exotic pathogens
Pacific Herring (<i>Clupea pallasii</i>)	Pacific Ocean	Exotic pathogens
Pacific Sardine (South American Pilchard)	US West Coast & Canada West Coast	Exotic pathogens
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	Netherlands, France, Germany	Exotic pathogens
Pollock	Pacific Ocean	Exotic pathogens
Red Gurnard (<i>Chelidonichthys cuculus</i>)	Netherlands, France, Germany	Exotic pathogens
Snapper	Panama West Coast	Exotic pathogens
Tilapia	Panama West Coast	Exotic pathogens
Yellow Goosefish (<i>Lophius Litulon</i>)	FAO Major Fishing Area 61	Exotic pathogens