NOTICE OF AGENCY RULE-MAKING ADOPTION

AGENCY: Department of Marine Resources

CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: Chapter 25.04; 25.93; 25.96 – Chapter 25.04 Lobster Trawl Limits; 25.93 Management Framework for Limiting Lobster Fishing Effort on a Local or Regional Basis - Operational Rules; 25.96 Lobster Apprentice Program.

ADOPTED RULE NUMBER:

(LEAVE BLANK - ASSIGNED BY SECRETARY OF STATE)

CONCISE SUMMARY:

This rule-making 1) expands the Hancock County Trawl Limit area in Zone B, 2) amends the exit ratio for Zone B, 3) creates an exit ratio for Zone C, 4) amends the exit ratio for Zone E, 4) creates a separate waiting list for existing lobster license holders wishing to change their declared lobster zone (a "transfer" list) and 5) makes minor clarifications for consistency with recent legislative changes.

This rule-making expands the Hancock County Trawl Limit area in Zone B. In this area it is unlawful to have more than 3 lobster traps on any trawl. One of the lobster zone council authorities is to propose the number of lobster traps allowed on a trawl. The Zone B Council proposed extending the western boundary of the Hancock County Trawl Limit line to the 6-mile line.

This rule-making changes the Zone B 5:1 exit ratio using the currency of lobster licenses not renewed to a 3:1 exit ratio using the currency of lobster license not renewed. At the Lobster Zone B Council meeting on September 21, 2016, there was a unanimous vote by the Zone B Council to change their exit ratio in this way.

This rule-making establishes Zone C as a limited entry zone with an exit ratio of 1:1 using the currency of lobster licenses not renewed. At the Lobster Zone C Council meeting on September 8, 2016, there was a majority vote by the Zone C Council to establish this exit ratio.

This rule-making changes the Zone E 5:1 exit ratio currency from the number of trap tags associated with licenses not renewed to the number of licenses not renewed. At the Lobster Zone E Council meeting on February 29, 2016, there was a majority vote by the Zone E Council to change their exit ratio in this way.

For consistency with changes in statute, this rule-making requires that limited entry zones that opt to use trap tags retired in their exit ratio calculation, use the historic high of trap tags purchased, up to the current zone limit.

This rule-making addresses the lobster waiting lists, which currently consists of both apprentices who do not have a lobster license, as well as individuals that do hold a lobster license, but are requesting to switch to a different lobster zone. The Legislature recently passed a law directing the Department of Marine Resources to remove those individuals who already hold a lobster license from the existing waiting list, and create a separate "transfer" waiting list, as authorized by 12 MRS §6448. This rule-making creates a single "transfer" list and make transfers "one for one" with no net increase from transfers in any zone. The Department of Marine Resources will authorize any such "swaps" annually until there are no matches remaining.

Finally, this rule-making clarifies that if an individual completes the apprentice program in multiple zones, individuals would still be required to document at least the minimum of 1,000 fishing hours that is accumulated over a minimum of 200 calendar days in each desired zone. However, the minimum of the 24-month requirement is met 24 months from the date the individual logs their first day in the apprenticeship program.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

(TO BE FILLED IN BY SECRETARY OF STATE)

AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: AGENCY NAME: ADDRESS: Sarah Cotnoir Department of Marine Resources 21 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333-0021 WEB SITE: E-MAIL: TELEPHONE: FAX: TTY: http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rulemaking/

sarah.cotnoir@maine.gov (207) 624-6596 (207) 624-6024 (207) 633-9500 (Deaf/Hard of Hearing) Chapter 25.04; 25.93; 25.96 – Chapter 25.04 Lobster Trawl Limits; 25.93 Management Framework for Limiting Lobster Fishing Effort on a Local or Regional Basis - Operational Rules; 25.96 Lobster Apprentice Program. Proposed Rulemaking.

Rule language

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Chapter 25 - Lobster and Crab Fishing

25.04 Lobster Trawl Limits

A. Casco Bay

It shall be unlawful to have on any trawl more than 12 lobster traps in waters within the following area: Starting at Martin Point, Portland; southeasterly to the northern end of House Island, Portland; thence southeasterly to the northeast point of White Head, Cushing Island, Portland; thence easterly to the southwest point of outer Green Island; thence easterly to the light at Halfway Rock; thence northwesterly to the Green Island Ledge Buoy; thence northwesterly to Parker Point, Yarmouth.

- B. It is unlawful to have on any trawl more than 3 lobster traps in the following areas:
 - 1. West of Cape Elizabeth and east of Kittery. Westerly of a line drawn from the active lighthouse at Two Lights in Cape Elizabeth through the Hue and Cry Buoy and, continuing in a straight line, to the point of intersection with the 3-nautical-mile line, and northerly and easterly of a line running between the Kitts Rocks Whistle Buoy and the West Sister Buoy and extending westerly to the New Hampshire border, and from the West Sister Buoy to the Murray Rock Buoy and thence to and through the lighthouse on Boone Island and, continuing in a straight line, to the point of intersection with the 3-nautical-mile line;
 - 2. Between Pemaquid and Robinson's Points. Between the following lines:
 - A. Beginning at a point 48 miles true north of the lighthouse on Pemaquid Point, Lincoln County; thence true south through the lighthouse to a point of intersection with the 3-nautical-mile line; and
 - B Beginning at a point 40 miles true north from the lighthouse at Robinson's Point, Isle au Haut, Knox County; thence true south through the lighthouse to a point of intersection with the 3-nautical-mile line; and
 - 3. Off Hancock County and within the following areas. Beginning at the Southern tip of Schoodic Point, Hancock County; at 44° 19.900' N and 068° 03.609' W; thence running a True Magnetic compass course of 159° 174° to latitude 44° 9.44'N and longitude 067° 57.54'W; thence running in a southwesterly direction along the Maine Six Mile Line, as described in DMR Chapter 75.01 A-6, to its intersection with the lobster Zone B/C line at 43° 54.452' N and 068° 25.708' W to latitude 44 3.42'N and longitude 068 10.26'W and thence; continuing in a southwesterly direction to latitude 44 1.34'N and longitude 068 13.85'W; thence following the B/C line to latitude 44° 01.376' N and 068° 28.396' W; thence running in a westerly Magnetic compass course of 286° direction to a the point of intersect with the where that line intersects with the line described in subsection 2, paragraph B₁; if it is extended to that line. and then following that line north to its point of origin 40 miles true north of from the lighthouse at Robinson's Point, Isle Au Haut, Knox County.
- 25.93 Management Framework for Limiting Lobster Fishing Effort on a Local or Regional Basis Operational Rules
 - F. Exit Ratios for Limited-Entry Zones

- (1) Procedures for the Apprentice Waiting List
 - (a) By December 15 of each year, a <u>A</u> person wishing to enter a limited-entry zone must have made <u>make</u> an application to the Department and the <u>dDepartment</u> shall evaluate the applicant's eligibility, in accordance with §6421(5) and §6448 and this rule.
 - (b) By February April 1 of each year, the <u>dDepartment</u> shall calculate the number of licenses to be awarded to new entrants for each limited-entry zone for that calendar year in accordance with §6448 and this rule. The exit ratio shall be as follows:
 - (i) Zone D one license awarded to a new entrant for every 4,000 tags retired by individuals who held a Class I, II or III lobster and crab fishing license in the previous calendar year and who exited the zone making an entry to exit ratio of 1:5.
 - (ii) Zone E one license awarded to a new entrant for every 3,000 tags <u>5 licenses</u> retired by individuals who held a Class I, II or III lobster and crab fishing license in the previous calendar year and who exited the zone making an entry to exit ratio of 1:5.
 - (iii) Zone F- one license awarded to a new entrant for every 4,000 tags retired by individuals who held a Class I, II or III lobster and crab fishing license in the previous calendar year and who exited the zone, making an entry to exit ratio of 1:5.
 - (iv) Zone G one license awarded to a new entrant for every 4,000 tags retired by individuals who held a Class I, II or III lobster and crab fishing license in the previous calendar year and who exited the zone, making an entry to exit ratio of 1:5.
 - (v) Zone B one license awarded to a new entrant for every 5 <u>3</u> licenses retired by individuals who held a Class I, II or III lobster and crab fishing license in the previous calendar year and who exited the zone, making an entry to exit ratio of 1:5<u>3</u>.
 - (vi) Zone A one license awarded to a new entrant for every 3 licenses retired by individuals who held a Class I, II or III lobster and crab fishing license in the previous calendar year and who exited the zone making an entry to exit ratio of 1:3.
 - (vii) Zone C one license awarded to a new entrant for every 1 license retired by individuals who held a Class I, II or III lobster and crab fishing license in the previous calendar year and who exited the zone making an entry to exit ratio of 1:1
 - (c) For lobster zones that opt to use trap tags not renewed in their exit ratio calculations, the number of traps tags retired by individuals is the total of the greatest number of trap tags purchased in any prior year up to the current zone maximum under each license that is not renewed.
- (2) Procedures for the Transfer Waiting List
 - (a) <u>A Class I, II or III lobster license holder wishing to transfer into a limited-entry zone must</u> make application to the Department by completing a Lobster Zone Declaration form.
 - (b) <u>Class I, II or III lobster license holders on the lobster waiting lists as of the effective date of this rule will be removed from those waiting lists and placed on a separate single "transfer waiting list" based on their current eligibility date on the waiting lists.</u>
 - (c) <u>Class I, II or III lobster license holders who want to be placed on the transfer waiting list will</u> be placed on the list in the order of the time and date upon which the Department receives the request using the Lobster Zone Declaration Form.
 - (d) By April 1 of each year, the Department will begin at the top of the transfer waiting list, and determine if there are any corresponding transfers of fishermen wishing to transfer in the opposite direction (e.g., Zone A to Zone B, and Zone B to Zone A). The Department will authorize all transfers for which matches are available and eligible.
 - (e) In order to be eligible to transfer, a fisherman must have demonstrated landings of at least 5,000 lbs. in any two of the three (3) prior calendar years.
 - (f) <u>Authorized transfers will be informed in writing and mailed a transfer application form by the</u> <u>Department by certified mail.</u>
 - (g) <u>Authorized transfers must submit their transfer application, within 30 days of receipt of notice</u> by the Department or the transfer will lose their authorization.
 - (h) If an authorized transfer has not complied with (g) above, the next person on the waiting list who wishes to transfer into that zone, if any, will be sent an authorization and have 30 days to comply in the same manner.
 - (i) <u>A transfer will be not be completed for either license holder, until both license holders have</u> submitted their transfer application form and demonstrated their eligibility.

Apprentice program for entry into the lobster fishery

- A. To become eligible for a class I, II, or III lobster and crab fishing license under 12 M.R.S.A. §6421, the applicant must meet the requirements of the apprentice program under Chapter 25.96.
- B. Apprentice Program. The program is initiated with the first documented calendar day of a fishing hour under an apprentice license or student license. The program is completed upon presentation to the Commissioner of acceptable validated log sheets documenting at least the minimum of 1,000 fishing hours that is accumulated over a minimum of 200 calendar days, during a minimum of 24 months. If an individual completes the program in multiple zones, individuals will still be required to document at least the minimum of 1,000 fishing hours that is accumulated over a minimum of the z4-month requirement is met 24 months from the date the individual logs their first day in the apprenticeship program.

Basis Statement

This rule-making 1) expands the Hancock County Trawl Limit area in Zone B, 2) amends the exit ratio for Zone B, 3) creates an exit ratio for Zone C, 4) amends the exit ratio for Zone E, 4) creates a separate waiting list for existing lobster license holders wishing to change their declared lobster zone (a "transfer" list) and 5) makes minor clarifications for consistency with recent legislative changes.

This rule-making expands the Hancock County Trawl Limit area in Zone B. In this area it is unlawful to have more than 3 lobster traps on any trawl. One of the lobster zone council authorities is to propose the number of lobster traps allowed on a trawl. The Zone B Council proposed extending the western boundary of the Hancock County Trawl Limit line to the 6-mile line.

This rule-making changes the Zone B 5:1 exit ratio using the currency of lobster licenses not renewed to a 3:1 exit ratio using the currency of lobster license not renewed. At the Lobster Zone B Council meeting on September 21, 2016, there was a unanimous vote by the Zone B Council to change their exit ratio in this way.

This rule-making establishes Zone C as a limited entry zone with an exit ratio of 1:1 using the currency of lobster licenses not renewed. At the Lobster Zone C Council meeting on September 8, 2016, there was a majority vote by the Zone C Council to establish this exit ratio.

This rule-making changes the Zone E 5:1 exit ratio currency from the number of trap tags associated with licenses not renewed to the number of licenses not renewed. At the Lobster Zone E Council meeting on February 29, 2016, there was a majority vote by the Zone E Council to change their exit ratio in this way.

For consistency with changes in statute, this rule-making requires that limited entry zones that opt to use trap tags retired in their exit ratio calculation, use the historic high of trap tags purchased, up to the current zone limit.

This rule-making addresses the lobster waiting lists, which currently consists of both apprentices who do not have a lobster license, as well as individuals that do hold a lobster license, but are requesting to switch to a different lobster zone. The Legislature recently passed a law directing the Department of Marine Resources to remove those individuals who already hold a lobster license from the existing waiting list, and create a separate "transfer" waiting list, as authorized by 12 MRS §6448. This rule-making creates a single "transfer" list and make transfers "one for one" with no net increase from transfers in any zone. The Department of Marine Resources will authorize any such "swaps" annually until there are no matches remaining. Based on comments received, the rule was amended from what was proposed to require that an individual have had landings of at least 5,000 lbs in any two of the prior three years.

Finally, this rule-making clarifies that if an individual completes the apprentice program in multiple zones, individuals would still be required to document at least the minimum of 1,000 fishing hours that is accumulated over a minimum of 200 calendar days in each desired zone. However, the minimum of the 24-month requirement is met 24 months from the date the individual logs their first day in the apprenticeship program.

Summary of Comments

Public Hearing Attendees

Ellsworth	
John Williams, Stonington	Zone C Lobsterman

Judy Williams, Stonington	Wife of a Lobsterman
Jason Joyce, Swans Island	Zone BSI Lobsterman
Sam Joy, Swans Island	Zone BSI Lobsterman
Joshua Joyce, Swans Island	Zone BSI Lobsterman
Kevin Staples, Swans Island	Zone B Lobsterman
David Lemoine, Swans Island	Zone BSI Lobsterman
Ben Weed, Stonington	Zone C Lobsterman
Kenneth Lemoine, Jr., Swans Island	Zone BSI Lobsterman
Darrell Williams, Deer Isle	Zone C Lobsterman
Brian Eaton, Deer Isle	Zone C Lobsterman
David Horner, Bass Harbor	Zone B Lobsterman
Victor Doyle, Mount Desert Island	Zone B Apprentice
Curtis Gott, Mount Desert Island	Zone B Apprentice
Josh Kane, Mount Desert Island	Zone B Apprentice
Chris Goodwin, Bass Harbor	Zone B Lobsterman
Adam Lawson, Bass Harbor	Zone B Lobsterman
Carroll Staples, Swans Island	Zone B Lobsterman
Johnson Boyce, Stonington	Zone C Lobsterman
Hilton Turner, Stonington	Zone C Lobsterman
Sgt. Troy Dow	Maine Marine Patrol
Officer Jeff Turcotte	Maine Marine Patrol
Wiscasset	
Lawrence Pye, Phippsburg	Zone E Lobsterman
Brett Gilliam, Phippsburg	Zone E Lobsterman
Rep. Jay McCreight, Harpswell	Maine State Representative
Ethan Debery, Phippsburg	Zone E Apprentice
Portland	
Officer Tom Hale	Maine Marine Patrol

D. Gilbert provided an overview of the rule and S. Cotnoir responded to clarifying questions.

Hancock County Trawl Limit Issue:

Comments in Opposition

Comment: Lobsterman Darrell Williams out of Deer Isle (Ellsworth hearing). I'm opposed to it. I think contrary to what you hear, it's going to cause a lot of conflict. I think it's going to create a lot of conflict because they are trying to push a lot of people out of bottom they've fished. I've fished there for the better part of 20 years. My opinion is because they don't like fishing around trawls. I get it. I don't like fishing around triples. You can set three triples to a trawl. I think it's going to create a lot more conflict than what necessarily has been presented to you. I'd like to hear the benefit of why they think it's going to work. I think there are going to be a lot of issues and Marine Patrol knows that. The reason I don't fish triples is because you're looking at least 350 feet of water for the most part, where I fish. There are people that find value in fishing pairs in 350 feet of water. I'm not one of them. There are people that don't find value in hauling 60-70 fathom endlines for two traps. I know one fellow here that has fished 10s and 15s in the same area and he's in Swans Island. I like to make better time with 10trap trawls. You guys don't want to see Zone C fishermen there. There are Zone C fishermen I don't want to see there for a lot of reasons. I think it is a biased effort to push fishermen out of the area where they don't want them. We're talking about the elephant in the room. We all know what the problem is. I fish the 525 line to the 50-fathom edge. I've never known what anyone else fished down there because I don't haul other people's gear. I started out with fours the first year I was down there. I went to 10s pretty quick. I think it's pretty disingenuous to try to fight the fight you're fighting by trying to push a lot of people out. I understand the problems of having a 12" hauler trying to haul three traps with 15 traps on top of them. It's not easy to haul a 10-trap trawl with a 14" hauler with 15 on top of it. I get it. There's an underlying problem here trying to be fought with this trawl line. The root of this problem is the State calling certain bottom different letters.

Comment: Lobsterman Ben Weed out of Stonington (Ellsworth hearing). I'm speaking in opposition to this because I fished there for 10 years. I pushed up on that bottom a lot more than a lot of other guys have. It was summer time and no one was around, why steam over it? It's good bottom and nobody's fishing it. I worked my way up through there. We had issues. One of the fishermen called me up and we worked it out. He told me where I should go to try to make peace with them and myself. I listened to him and I backed off. I was still able to fish kind of on their grounds, but respectfully. I did it this year. They were hauling my traps, cutting my travls. I

tried to be respectful of them when they showed up. I backed off. I like trawls. I like to make decent time. I'd rather work with the guys. I don't want to make enemies out of them. They have to fish with me as much as I have to fish with them. I'd rather see a peaceful solution and maybe get the fishermen together to come up with something. If they want to fish triples, great. I want to fish trawls. Why can't we work together so everybody's happy?

Comment: Lobsterman Hilton Turner out of Stonington (Ellsworth hearing). I have to say that after the last meeting at Zone B that I went to, there definitely is some conflict there. That's where this is coming from. The conflict is there are too many people down there. They want the Zone C guys back where they belong.

Written Comment in Opposition

Comment: Lobsterman Donald Jones out of Stonington. I am writing to oppose the Zone B Council proposal to extend the western boundary of the Hancock County Trawl Limit line to the 6-mile line. I am a lifelong Stonington, ME fisherman. Many years ago, some of us Stonington lobstermen had gear conflicts with Swans Island lobstermen. We were what in Stonington is known as "eastern bay" fishermen, fishing Jericho Bay and the eastern side of Isle au Haut. This was long before zone management was implemented in the lobster fishery. The gear conflict was on bottom below Marshalls Island, both inside and just outside the 3-mile line. Finally, after a lot of talking among those fishing the area, the Swans Island fishermen said if the Stonington boats stayed west of the 12525 line we wouldn't have any more trouble. That was before hardly anyone was fishing outside or over toward Mount Desert Rock. (I'm sorry that I missed the public hearing because I could have pointed out this bottom on the chart.) I fished pairs and triples on that bottom, just like everyone else back then. But a lot has changed since that time, in my own fishing operation and the fishery as a whole. On the management side, first the zones were set up. The disputed placement of the line between my Zone C and Zone B finally got settled and that lobster bottom I'd always fished was now in Zone B. Then the federal whale rules started coming. Lobstermen have been fortunate to have had the DMR working for us every step of the way because in the beginning it felt like the environmental groups wanted to shut down the fishery in order to prevent any whale entanglements. The National Marine Fisheries Service says it has to act to protect the threatened and endangered whales because of the requirements of the Endangered Species Act. So our fishing practices have been forced to change. First it was using breakaways. Then no floating groundline between traps, only sink rope. The most recent rules are aimed at reducing the number of vertical lines in the water, which pushed many of us to fishing trawls. But the greatest change has been the explosion in lobster abundance and how that has affected the fishery. Now there are bigger and more sophisticated boats less bound by traditional fishing territories and practices. I know there are gear conflict problems and I know that trawls can be frustrating to fish around, especially if the guy setting them doesn't know what he's doing or doesn't care. I deal with that too. But I don't think the answer is limiting fishing to triples in the triangle described in the proposed rule. And requiring me to make that change will only put more vertical lines in the water because I will continue to legally set traps on bottom that I have always fished.

Neutral Comments

Comment: Lobsterman John Williams out of Stonington (Ellsworth hearing). I don't like fishing trawls anywhere, but we have offshore because we're supposed to now. But most places that we're fishing triples and trawls together, as long as everybody's running their gear in the same direction, it really doesn't matter. I don't understand what the conflict is. If they make a triple law, it's the triple law. It doesn't make any difference. If you want to fish the area, fish triples. If you don't, go someplace else. I don't understand what the conflict would be.

Comments in Favor

Comment: Lobsterman Kevin Staples out of Swans Island (Ellsworth hearing). Spoke in support of expanding the trawl limit area. I've been fishing down there for probably 30 years. There have been times in the summer time that I've been all alone down there. At times, I've taken a little beaten down there. I fish 6s, I used to fish 4s. Zone C guys did fish down there, but always hung to the 50-fathom edge. It was not until the last couple years, there were guys coming inside SSW inside what we call the Ezra Ground, which I feel is just totally wrong. People coming in and setting 15-trap trawls across us on purpose, to drive us off our own bottom that we've fished for years. We've been driven out of the Bay on the back side, all of Blue Hill Bay. I go offshore just to get away from it. People coming on our bottom that we've never seen. I don't know half the people I'm fishing around anymore. If they don't do something this year, we're going to have the same mess we had last year. No one's going to win. No respect. There are guys fishing my colors down there now. Fishing is all we have on the island. There are so many Zone C fishermen there now. There are 15,000 Zone B second tags going into C and 50,000 C second zone tags going into B. People are just running scared from everywhere. There are guys on the island last year that couldn't fish where they wanted to fish because they didn't dare to. How many traps were

cut last year? How many dollars' worth of trap gear was cut last year? This can't keep up. This business is too expensive. We should be fishing the big trawls outside the 50-fathom edge. It's a lot to do with the guys that are not experienced. They've come out there in the last few years that they've gotten licenses. They set across you, over the top of you. It's very dangerous. It's scary sometimes.

Comment: Lobsterman Jason Joyce out of Swans Island (Ellsworth hearing). Looking at this chart, it was the better part of 20 years ago. It has always been triples there. In the last 6-8years, guys have gone to quads and fives. But coming in there with 15-trap trawls is a conflict. As far as working out things amongst each other, I think that is what this is right here now. It's a chance to speak in favor of it, speak against it. I've been fishing in that area since 1989. Some guys were fishing pairs, but traditionally, it was triples. But traditionally, that was a triple area. Zone C guys have the big stainless davit and are set up for trawls. Most guys in our area aren't. So you've got guys who traditionally have an 1-1/2" piece of solid pipe bent over for a davit and 15-trap trawls on them. They run in the other direction and things can get damaged and guys can get hurt. You're basically displacing, whether it's Zone B or Zone C, the traditional fishery that was there which was pairs and triples. Now we can't go to pairs, but triples was the majority of what was down there. I'm in favor of this. Traditionally, this is what was fished in that area. I see gear conflict. If they want to fish trawls, they can fish outside. Going down there now, unless you've got a cut-out stern and you're set up for trawls, especially trawls with anchors on them, you could snarl up in that and not get your gear back. Anybody who is fishing 15-trap trawls and can't make a living outside of their line, I don't know what advice to give them. I'm looking at the 50-fathom edge, which is where it was triples. That's what traditionally was there.

Comment: Lobsterman Carroll Staples out of Swans Island (Ellsworth hearing). I guess I'm in favor of the Hancock County Trawl Line moving. This would screw me up as far as the way I fish as much as anybody. Guys have been talking about respect for fellow fishermen and where they fish. If guys from the island asked me to move, or break my traps down because I was causing problems for them, I would do it. That's really what this is about and that's why I support this. This benefits all of Zone B. I know it's going to screw up the way that you guys like to fish. It's going to screw up the way I like to fish. But it is Zone B. It is our zone and if Zone B wants it, I support Zone B. If you guys want to fish there, you're more than welcome to fish there, but you're just going to have to do triples like I'm going to have to do.

Comment: Lobsterman Josh Joyce out of Swans Island (Ellsworth hearing). I'm speaking in favor of the triples and expanding the Hancock County Trawl Line. I've been there since 1994, it was all triples. It was pairs and triples. It had been for quite a while. I know we can say we've been there for however many years, but that's what it always was. It turned into monkey see, monkey do. Yes, it is faster, but I've always fished triples there. Again, will I have to reduce the amount of gear I have on a line? Yes, in spots I will. Overall I think for Zone B, which this is Zone B, I think it's a beneficiary-type of fishing and one that we have chosen. This started from Frenchboro where a fisherman had brought this up. The more we looked at it, for again, it was in our best interest. I believe it is, so, I'm in favor of this.

Comment: Lobsterman John Williams out of Stonington (Ellsworth hearing). I don't see anybody in this room that was in here when this trawl line was put into effect. I know my father was fishing. I started in 1973. They were still using knit heads because this was brought up, I think, in East Penobscot Bay. It's the Hancock County Trawl Line, but we're fishing Knox County in the Bay. They were still fishing knit heads and Vinalhaven was bringing trawls up in the Bay and you couldn't get your gear up. I understand what's happening, and I don't have any problem fishing triples outside. We fished them for years. We never fished trawls until we were off in 100 fathom of water. I don't see what the conflict is. If that's going to be the rule, that's what everybody's going to fish.

Comment: Lobsterman Sam Joy out of Swans Island (Ellsworth hearing). I'm in favor of the three trap trawl line. I think if any Zone C fisherman wants to come into Zone B, I think it should be respected of our decisions of what Zone B says. There are guys that have fished there longer than I have. I respect all you guys. It's Swans Island's back door. We should have the ability to say what goes on in that area.

Comment: Lobsterman David Lemoine out of Swans Island (Ellsworth hearing). I started fishing offshore somewhat in 1994 when I got my boat, 35' Duffy, six-cylinder, Ford diesel. I had a 12-inch hauler. I have a 14 now. I fish alone. That was common then. Guys fished alone out there. Haul pairs, triples. That's not a big deal. I don't want to fish with a crew, so I'm not going to rig up for trawls. To haul triples there where the trawls are, you have to have your boat rigged to haul trawls to be able to get your gear up. I don't go offshore much anymore because I get a trawl, then I can't haul my gear. I go back and I've never lost any gear down there, surprisingly. I don't know why with some of the issues down there. I go back and my gear is there, but I can't haul it because I can't get my gear out from under a 10-trap trawl. Selfish for me, but I'm in favor of three-trap trawls.

Comment: Lobsterman Ken Lemoine out of Swans Island (Ellsworth hearing). In Stonington probably in the 70s, there was a good size scallop fishery. By November 1, a lot of them out of Stonington were scallop fishing and no one had traps in. This traditional stuff is for the birds. Maybe in the early 80s, a guy I never met came through with his 37 MDI with the same buoy colors I did and asked me if I'd change my buoy colors because it conflicted. He never had any numbers or initials on his buoys. We kept fishing. I probably go further west than anybody else from Swans Island into Zone C. They really started setting the trawls in the last couple years. Sometimes it's purposely done. When someone rides by, when you are here to that wall and they are dumping on top of you. Or you're going down by the west side of Marshall and they are running over the top of your buoy and cutting your buoy off in the wheel. That's happened this year. When you're going through your lobsters and they come down beside you within 15 feet with a 46' Wesmac and pretty near roll you over. It gets pretty annoying and that's why things have come this far. With a 35' Duffy, I cannot haul that gear back. I'm really afraid something is going to take place another year if this continues. I'm in favor of the three. As far as tradition, I've been there fishing as long as these other guys and probably more. Let these young guys go fishing.

Written Comments in Favor

Comment: Lobsterman Caleb MacDonald out of Swans Island. I am for extending only triples to the six-mile line offshore.

Comment: Lobsterman Carlton Joyce out of Swans Island. In favor of expanding triples max to 6-mile line. I first fished in the area of question in 1962 when I got out of the service overseas in Germany. I continued to fish it until 2 years ago. The trawls showing up in our area that traditionally was a place for pairs or triples made it too difficult to deal with. My father, Robert Joyce fished there since 1934 for over 50 years with pairs and triples, and my Grandfather Guy Joyce began fishing there in 1912. The area has always been a place for pairs and triples, and our inshore boats tend to be more moderate in size. The trawls with over 3 traps on a line are displacing our traditional fishermen, and we support extending the triple-only line to the 6-mile line.

Comment: Lobsterman Christopher Sawyer out of Swans Island. I am in support of the triple line going in the area in which they are trying to change. I, being a Zone B lobsterman, always fished triples there until other fishermen started bringing 5 trap trawls in to fish. Once they started fishing fives there. I was forced to as well resulting in less vertical lines/snarls. A few years later, there were some fishermen bringing in 10 and 15-trap trawls. There are enough fishermen in that area, it is impossible to fish 10-trap trawls without setting across someone. It also makes it hard because they not putting markers on both ends like they are required to do, not knowing which way they are setting them is difficult as well. I believe some of the fishermen setting their 10-trap trawls across others are doing so to make a statement. Several of the Zone B fishermen liked having the 5-trap trawls including myself. We are willing to reduce to fishing triples in that area to prevent the excessive trawls. Having less vertical lines originated with protecting the whales yet if heavier trawls are causing the smaller ones to part off, there is much more sunken debris putting the whales at risk. There is also a higher probability of personal injury or death, a fisherman could be tending to a snarl, it could kick out from the hauler due to extra weight and the rope could potentially wrap around his arm or leg and pull him overboard. The fishermen to the west of this area set differently than the Eastern fishermen. The result of setting styles clashing with each other causes tempers to flare and a loss of gear on both sides. This damages relationships between towns and even individuals. The added danger is unnecessary. We need to be focusing on fishing responsibly and protecting marine life. I understand bigger trawls outside the 6-mile line makes more sense due to the greater amount of area/fishing grounds.

Comment: Lobsterman Daniel Johnson out of Swans Island. I'm writing to say that I do support expanding the Hancock County Trawl Line.

Comment: Lobsterman Jason Joyce out of Swans Island. Please support our effort to expand the Hancock Trawl line, to the 6-mile line in Zone B. This area has suddenly become a target for 10 to 15-trap trawls since the passing of the whale rules, and the abundance of these trawls has displaced much of our local fleet of smaller inshore boats which run triples. There is plenty of room outside of the 6-mile line for trawls, but between the 3 and 6-mile line is too close and causes much gear conflict. There will be less gear conflict if this passes.

Comment: Lobsterman Jim Hanscom out of Bar Harbor. I am in favor of the Hancock County Triple line being expanded.

Comment: Lobsterman Ken Lemoine out of Swans Island. I'm commenting on the upcoming decision on the triple - trawl line decision. I've been fishing this area for several decades before any issues to trawls being fished here, and further west. Up until the last few years we fished triples max, a few pairs also. This has turned into a very negative situation because of gear loss & not being able to retrieve our gear back when wanted. So you

either leave your gear & move on or take a chance on a safety issue because of weight etc. I realize that times are changing, but traditional fishing is disappearing fast. It's everybody's ocean, US INCLUDED. Family history before 1800 on Swans Island.

Comment: Lobsterman Lewis Bishop out of Bass Harbor. I am in favor of only triples off to the 6-mile in Zone B.

Comment: Lobsterman Phillip Torrey out of Winter Harbor. I'm a Zone B fisherman from Winter Harbor and writing you to support the expansion of the Hancock County Trawl Line to 6 miles for the rest of Zone B. A lot of guys in one area fishing trawls is dangerous and causes MAJOR gear conflict amongst fishermen. Many times because guys that have fished an area their entire fishing lives are getting overrun by younger guys who bury an area with trawls and many times can't even haul their buoyed gear up because of trawls down over them. This doesn't go well. I actually fish trawls and this time of year go to all trawls, but I also fish all my gear a good part of the year in the 3's only zone and I believe it's a good balance for everyone. I've talked to my friends from the West and from Swans Island about the issues they have and believe this would help resolve a lot of it. Most guys that fish trawls will ONLY fish trawls and this has kept a balance in the area I fish.

Comment: Lobsterman Roman Rozenski out of Swans Island. I am in favor of extending triples-only to the 6-mile line. To me any rule in Zone B should be what the Zone B fishermen want. I was at the meeting at the Fishermen's Forum when the A, B, C, D, E, F, G lines were put in place. The Commissioner told us at that time "don't you want to be in charge of your own zone". Doesn't seem to be working out that way, When it has to go to a state vote to get anything done in your (own zone)! What we want in our zone we should get without compromise.

Comment: Lobsterman Samuel Joy out of Swans Island. I'm in favor of expanding the Hancock County Trawl line to 6 miles. I would like to keep Swans Island waters traditionally what it used to be, which was triples.

Comment: Lobsterman Shane Carter out of Bar Harbor. I would like to support the triple only line being moved out to the 6-mile line.

Comment: Lobsterman Spencer Joyce out of Swans Island. I am writing in favor of extending Hancock County Triple Line. Fishing this area since the 1970s, it has been increasingly harder to fish with the increasing trap trawls that have been showing up in the last few years from Zone C fishermen. As a Zone B fisherman, I feel the right to voice my opinion in what happens in Zone B.

Department of Marine Resources Response:

Hancock County Trawl Limit: One of the statutory authorities of the zone councils is to propose the number of lobster traps on a trawl within their zone. Zone B has requested that the western boundary of this triple area (the area where the maximum of three traps on a trawl can be fished) be expanded to the 6-mile line. Representatives of Zone B have expressed a variety of reasons for requesting this trawl limit area expansion. These include safety reasons, set-overs, that fact that not all vessels are rigged to haul trawls and cannot retrieve gear, inability to set gear/find bottom in Zone B because of long trawls, displacement, gear conflict, etc. Where there is disagreement regarding how an area should be fished, the Department believes that when possible, the fishermen who have declared that Zone should have preference over the trawl limit. Zone C fishermen will not be excluded from the area, they will just be required to fish triples. Longer trawls can also be fished outside the 6-mile line.

Zone B Exit Ratio Issue:

Comments in Favor

Comment: Lobster Apprentice Josh Kane out of Mount Desert Island on Zone B waiting list (Ellsworth hearing). Speaking in favor of it. In my opinion, when it was implemented that the rule changed to 5:1, lobster landings were on the increase. It was kind of a draconian measure to limit who can and can't come in and out of the fishery. It was too drastic. At 3:1, it seems like a fair ratio. Obviously, I would like it to move faster, but I would hate to see us regress. Also, if you don't come from a fishing family, it's difficult to get a license. I wasn't able to get my license as a student. I'm in favor of the 3:1.

Comment: Lobster Apprentice Curtis Gott out of Mount Desert Island on Zone B Waiting List (Ellsworth hearing). I'm here for the same reasons as Josh and Victor. I'm in favor of 3:1 exit ratio.

Comment: Lobsterman David Lemoine out of Swans Island (Ellsworth hearing). I'm in favor of 3:1 ratio. It never should have been 5:1.

Comment: Lobsterman Hilton Turner out of Stonington (Ellsworth hearing). I'd like to speak in favor of 3:1 for Zone B.

Comment: Lobsterman Ken Lemoine out of Swans Island (Ellsworth hearing). As far as the licenses and the ratio, that is a waste of time. Let them go fishing if they want to go fishing. That's my personal opinion. Don't restrict them. Let them go to work. If they break the law or do habitual things, boot them. Let somebody else in.

Zone C Limited Entry:

Comments in Favor

Comment: Lobsterman Hilton Turner out of Stonington (Ellsworth hearing). I'd like to speak in favor of the Zone C rules.

Zone E Exit Ratio Issue:

Comments in Opposition

Comment: Lobsterman Brett Gilliam out of Phippsburg (Wiscasset hearing). In my lifetime, the traps have just about doubled. The state got into it and tried to lower the amount of traps and effort. Now they do everything they can to make sure everybody gets in. There are so many traps outside now in places I used to fish alone, I can't fish anymore. I'm glad I'm 57 years old and don't have to look forward to another 35 years of that. When you get trap trawls of 15 wound up with 15 more, you're lifting 30 traps. Somebody is going to go over one of these days and they are going to drown. They had to do something about the amount of effort outside. They had to do something about those endlines because no whale has ever made it through with the traps being fished there today. There's going to be a problem. A 20-trap trawl, you can't see from one end to the other. You get places where there are a lot of traps where there never used to be 1 or 2 fishermen and now there are 20. Zone E is a small zone. We have a smaller limit, so our lobsters last longer. They know it in Zone F and there aren't any of them that don't dream about fishing in Zone E. We inherited a lot of people with the boundary line change. It only goes to 3 miles. It's only a little piece. If the state wanted to go out on Platts Bank and start casting Zone F out of it, there would be a big hoorah from Zone F. We conserve our lobsters, and then they go way off shore. Then they are getting caught by people from Zone F. We really aren't conserving a thing. The state should seriously think about putting down the trap limit down statewide to 500. You could get rid of the some of the congestion and people would make just as much money because they would catch more lobsters per trap. We proved it. I don't believe anybody has starved to death in Zone E because we have 600 traps. I knew when they set that limit lower, it would hold some of those people in Zone F because they couldn't imagine not fishing 800 traps.

Written Comment in Favor

Comment: Lobster Zone E Apprentice Ethan Debery out of Phippsburg. Just wanted to make a written comment in support of the currency change in Zone E from tags to licenses. I've been on the waiting list for many years and this change will make the wait times slightly more reasonable without adding a ton of new effort.

Department of Marine Resources Response:

Zone E Exit Ratio: A comment was made about how effort has increased historically in Zone E. The Department appreciates that history, but proposing to use tags or licenses in the exit ratio calculation is a zone council authority. The Department believes that the change the Zone E Council has recommended in the exit ratio currency is a relatively minor adjustment to the number of new commercial licenses that will be issued into Zone E. Zones A and B currently use licenses in their exit ratio. Zone C is proposing to do that as well with this rulemaking.

Transfer Waiting List Issues:

Neutral Comments

Comment: Lobsterman Lawrence Pye out of Small Point (Wiscasset hearing). In 2003-2004 under former Commissioner Lapointe, the Zone E line was moved from Fuller Rock to the Bald Head Bell Buoy. When that

was done, there were a number of people who were allowed to switch from Zone F into Zone E and it effectively doubled the amount of effort in our area. It's had a big impact on us economically and socially. You took people who fish one way and drop them into a group of people that fish an entirely different way and it causes a lot of friction and causes a lot of problems. We still deal with it today. No one that switched to Zone E from Zone F had ever traditionally fished that bottom. They thought it was the promise land. They thought it was better economically. One of those individuals is looking to go back. In my opinion, he got caught with short lobsters and wants to switch. They should be allowed to go back. We should not receive anyone in exchange for that. It's sort of an easy, not a great make-up, but a start. The other part of that is for under this rule, where there should be a component for the zone council to weigh in. That way we do not have people coming in from F to E if there was a match of who has violations in the past. Fishing over the limit, number of traps, shorts, oversized violations, anything like that. I would extend it to any other fishery. When I look out and look at who might switch, there are a number of individuals who have effectively been driven from Zone F due to violations. We do not really want other people's problem child to come into our area and to cause problems for us. There's a very delicate balance socially in terms of trust on the water, who follows the rules and who doesn't. These types of individuals cause a lot of heartache and a lot of problems over the years. My preference would be for the zone transfer list not to exist how it does now. You do have the potential under the system with only the 5,000 pound limit that you could increase a lot of effort from one area to another. Let's say you found someone in E who has the bare minimum threshold of landings to switch to F and then you get someone that fishes at a greater level over that time period. It is not necessarily an even transition. If there's a way to tighten that up as well, that would be great.

Written Neutral Comment

Comment: Lobsterman Lawrence Pye out of Small Point. Under former Commissioner Lapointe, the Zone E western boundary was moved a short distant to correct where the line should have been prior. When this occurred, Lapointe allowed fishermen the opportunity to switch to Zone E, resulting in a significant increase (doubling) in effort switching to Zone E. None of these individuals had ever traditionally fished the waters off Zone E (Small Point). No one who traditionally fished those waters was made aware of or talked with about allowing this rapid amount of zone transfers. It was a very short-sighted and underhanded maneuver, which has caused years of conflict and hard feelings. You had individuals with different fishing styles and values introduced into a very small area, with the ramifications and issues still lingering to this point in time. One of the individuals who switched zones was caught with short lobsters by Marine Patrol and is now seeking to switch back to Zone F. This individual should be placed back in Zone F, without a transfer then being allowed into Zone E. It is a start to correct a mistake, which has caused harm for those fishing on the western edge of Zone E. It also illustrates another point; we do not want people switching from Zone F into Zone E who have histories of violations, in any fishery. These are the types of individuals who consistently have flouted industry norms and regulations, causing a loss of faith in the entire system. Allowing zone transfers on a large scale adversely affects individuals who fish along the boundaries. Should not occur frequently or else you will have significant fishing effort redistributed in a short amount of time, with social and economic consequences for the fishermen already fishing those areas. There should be a zone review component built into the transfer process, allowing at least some type of comment on individuals seeking to transfer. Helps ensure latent licenses are not being traded for active licenses. It would be very easy for someone to falsify landings slips for 5,000 lbs. in prior 3 years. There should be a greater threshold for showing active participation in the fishery. Transfer program should be reviewed through the Zone Councils and by DMR staff, every 3 years at least to insure there is not a very rapid re-distribution of fishing effort, circumventing the limited entry process.

Comments in Favor

Comment: Lobster Apprentice Josh Kane out of Mount Desert Island on Zone B waiting list (Ellsworth hearing). I'm in favor of the transfer list staying as it is enacted in law now, and swap back and forth. That's a fair trade. I am in favor of it. I think it's been a long time coming. It seriously retarded the list and how long a lot of us had to wait. When I started it was 3:1 and that was what I based my future on. In the middle of it, it went to 5:1 and that seriously affected my future. I'm a father. I've watched numerous people 18 years old come in. They now have a house, a brand new 40 or 50-foot boat. It's a hard thing to watch when I've been fishing longer than a lot of these guys and I'm stuck on back deck. I think it was a needed change. I hope it's implemented.

Comment: Lobster Apprentice Victor Doyle out of Mount Desert Island on Zone B waiting list (Ellsworth hearing). I'm in a similar situation as Josh is. I feel like it's a long time coming. I have been told to come and speak and follow through with this. That's what I'm here for.

Comment: Lobster Apprentice Curtis Gott out of Mount Desert Island on Zone B Waiting List (Ellsworth hearing). I'm here for the same reasons as Josh and Victor. I'm in favor of the separate transfer list.

Comment: Lobsterman Hilton Turner out of Stonington (Ellsworth hearing). I'd like to speak in favor of the transfer list.

Department of Marine Resources Response:

Transfer list: Last legislative session, the Legislature passed LD 1503, directing the Department to remove the transfers from the existing waiting lists, create a separate waiting list for transfers, and develop rules to administer entry of those persons. While the industry supported this change prior to and during the legislative conversation, since the law passed they have become concerned about the mechanism for entry. The Department discussed two options with each of the Zone Councils, and some Councils held multiple meetings. The "swapping" mechanism proposed in the rule-making is the only method that will ensure that there is not unaccounted for entry into the Zone. The Department recognizes that it is not perfect, but will adopt this mechanism in this rule-making for this year, and discuss with the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources returning to the former system. Based on the comments regarding the need to ensure that a Zone is not trading a latent fisherman for an active one, the rule has been slightly modified from what was proposed to require at least 5000 lbs in landings in any two of the prior three years. Regarding the comment that persons with prior violations should not be allowed to transfer Zones, those individuals have paid their penalty and/or served their suspension, and the Department cannot administer additional penalties beyond those that are statutorily provided.

Rule-Making Fact Sheet

(5 M.R.S., §8057-A)

AGENCY: Department of Marine Resources

NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OF AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Deirdre Gilbert, Department of Marine Resources, 21 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0021 Telephone: (207) 624-6576; E-mail: deirdre.gilbert@maine.gov, web address: http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rulemaking/

CHAPTER NUMBER AND RULE: Chapter 25.04; 25.93; 25.96

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: §12 MRS §§ 6447, 6448

DATE AND PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

Monday, January 30, 2017, 6:00 PM, Ellsworth High School Cafeteria Tuesday, January 31, 2017, 6:00 PM, Wiscasset Elementary School Cafeteria Thursday, February 2, 2017, 6:00 PM, Portland City Hall, State of Maine Room

COMMENT DEADLINE: February 13, 2017

PRINCIPAL REASON(S) OR PURPOSE FOR PROPOSING THIS RULE: [see §8057-A(1)(A)&(C)]

This proposed rule-making addresses 1) expanding the Hancock County Trawl Limit area in Zone B, 2) amending the exit ratio for Zone B, 3) creating an exit ratio for Zone C, 4) amending the exit ratio for Zone E, 4) creating a separate waiting list for existing lobster license holders wishing to change their declared lobster zone (a "transfer" list) and 5) making minor clarifications for consistency with recent legislative changes.

This proposed rule-making proposes to expand the Hancock County Trawl Limit area in Zone B. In this area it is unlawful to have more than 3 lobster traps on any trawl. One of the lobster zone council authorities is to propose the number of lobster traps allowed on a trawl. The Zone B Council is proposing to extend the western boundary of the Hancock County Trawl Limit line to the 6-mile line.

This proposed rulemaking proposes to change the Zone B 5:1 exit ratio using the currency of lobster licenses not renewed to a 3:1 exit ratio using the currency of lobster license not renewed. At the Lobster Zone B Council meeting on September 21, 2016, there was a unanimous vote by the Zone B Council to advance this to rulemaking.

This proposed rulemaking also proposes to establish Zone C as a limited entry zone with an exit ratio of 1:1 using the currency of lobster licenses not renewed. At the Lobster Zone C Council meeting on September 8, 2016, there was a majority vote by the Zone C Council to advance to rulemaking.

This proposed rulemaking would also propose to change the Zone E 5:1 exit ratio currency from the number of trap tags associated with licenses not renewed to the number of licenses not renewed. At the Lobster Zone E Council meeting on February 29, 2016, there was a majority vote by the Zone E Council to advance this to rulemaking.

For consistency with changes in statute, this proposed rulemaking would also require that limited entry zones that opt to use trap tags retired in their exit ratio calculation, use the historic high of trap tags purchased, up to the current zone limit.

This proposed rulemaking would also address the lobster waiting lists, which currently consists of both apprentices who do not have a lobster license, as well as individuals that do hold a lobster license, but are requesting to switch to a different lobster zone. The Legislature recently passed a law directing the Department of Marine Resources to remove those individuals who already hold a lobster license from the existing waiting list, and create a separate "transfer" waiting list, as authorized by 12 MRS §6448. This rulemaking proposes to create a single "transfer" list and make transfers "one for one" with no net increase from transfers in any zone. The Department of Marine Resources would authorize any such "swaps" until there were no matches remaining.

Finally, this proposed rulemaking provides a clarification that if an individual completes the apprentice program in multiple zones, individuals would still be required to document at least the minimum of 1,000 fishing hours that is accumulated over a minimum of 200 calendar days in each desired zone. However, the minimum of the 24-month requirement is met 24 months from the date the individual logs their first day in the apprenticeship program.

IS MATERIAL INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THE RULE? ___YES_X_ NO [§8056(1)(B)]

ANALYSIS AND EXPECTED OPERATION OF THE RULE: [see §8057-A(1)(B)&(D)]

This regulation would help address gear density, fishing styles and safety issues between Zone B and Zone C. This regulation would change the exit ratio from 5:1 with licenses to 3:1 with licenses in Zone B. It would also create an exit ratio for Zone C, making it the final limited entry zone. This regulation would also change the Zone E 5:1 exit ratio currency from trap tags to a 5:1 exit ratio using licenses not renewed. It would also create a separate transfer waiting list for existing lobster license holders wishing to change their declared lobster zone. This regulation would require individuals completing the apprentice program in multiple zones to fulfil the minimum of the 24-month requirement one time, by using the date from their first logged day in the apprenticeship program.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF RELEVANT INFORMATION CONSIDERED DURING DEVELOPMENT OF THE RULE (including up to 3 primary sources relied upon) [see §§8057-A(1)(E) & 8063-B]

By a vote of the Zone B Council on 9/21/16, they unanimously supported expanding the Hancock County Trawl Limit triples area being advanced to rulemaking.

In May of 2016, Zone B went to referendum to solicit input on changing their exit ratio with licenses from 5:1 to 3:1. Zone B voted unanimously on 9/21/16 to advance 3:1 to rulemaking.

In July of 2016, Zone C went to referendum asking fishermen if they were in favor of limiting entry of new Zone C licenses at a ratio of 1:1. There was a majority vote at the Zone C meeting on 9/8/16 to advance creating an exit ratio of 1:1 with licenses in Zone C.

In October of 2015, Zone E went to referendum to solicit input on changing their exit ratio from 5:1 to 3:1 and whether the currency should be with trap tags or licenses not renewed. There was a majority vote at the Zone E meeting on 2/29/16 to advance 5:1 with licenses to rulemaking.

The Legislature recently passed a law directing the Department to create a separate transfer waiting list for commercial lobster license holders wishing to change their declared lobster zone.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT OF THE RULE: [see §8057-A(1)(C)] Enforcement of these proposed amendments would not require additional activity in this Agency. Existing enforcement personnel will monitor compliance during their routine patrols.

FOR EXISTING RULES WITH FISCAL IMPACT OF \$1 MILLION OR MORE, ALSO INCLUDE:

ECONOMIC IMPACT, WHETHER OR NOT QUANTIFIABLE IN MONETARY TERMS: [see §8057-A(2)(A)]

INDIVIDUALS, MAJOR INTEREST GROUPS AND TYPES OF BUSINESSES AFFECTED AND HOW THEY WILL BE AFFECTED: [see §8057-A(2)(B)]

BENEFITS OF THE RULE: [see §8057-A(2)(C)]