



**COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

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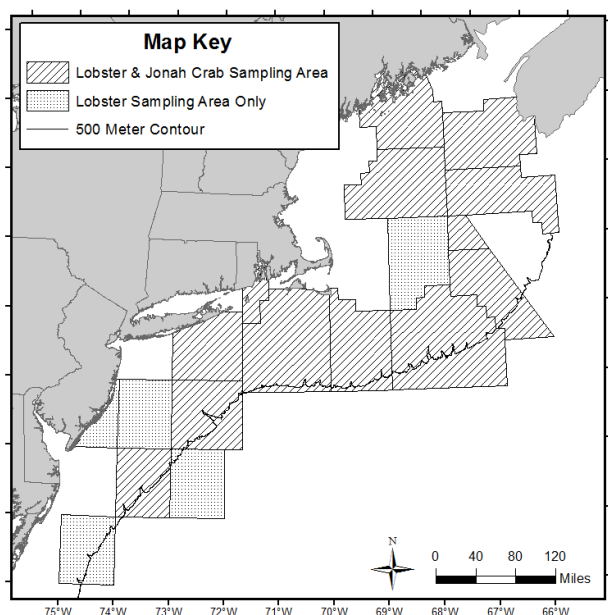
## CFRF Lobster and Jonah Crab Research Fleet

### General Description:

The CFRF Lobster and Jonah Crab Research Fleet project focuses on implementing a cost-effective method to collect critically needed biological data for Jonah crab (*Cancer borealis*) and American lobster (*Homarus americanus*). The project employs a fishing vessel research fleet approach, with 18 lobster and Jonah crab fishing vessels using digital calipers and the On Deck Data app to collect biological data from the catch in commercial and ventless traps. The research fleet also uses temperature loggers and the Ocean Temps app to collect bottom water temperature data from fishing gear. The project goal is to provide biological and environmental data from areas and times of year that are not covered by existing surveys, ultimately informing the assessment and management of lobster and Jonah crab. The Research Fleet has been in operation since June 2013, and has sampled over 116,000 lobsters and over 56,000 Jonah Crabs.

### Participant Vessels:

- F/V Ashley Ann - Point Judith, RI
- F/V Barbara Ann-Point Judith, RI
- F/V Blue Moon - Newport, RI
- F/V Catherine Ann - Newport, RI
- F/V Cailyn Grace - Sakonnet Point, RI
- F/V Direction - Fairhaven, MA
- F/V Erica Knight - Point Judith, RI
- F/V Excalibur - Newport, RI
- F/V Freedom - Newport, RI
- F/V Gladys Elaine - Newington, NH
- F/V Karen Ann - Point Judith, RI
- F/V Lady Clare - Point Judith, RI
- F/V Miss Julie- Sandwich, MA
- F/V Nathaniel Lee - Newport, RI
- F/V Revolution - New Bedford, MA
- F/V Select - Point Judith, RI
- F/V Two Dukes - Sea Isle City, NJ
- F/V Virginia Marie - Sandwich, MA



### Data Collection:

- All data is collected at sea by commercial fishermen, stored and viewed using the On Deck Data app on Android tablets, and relayed to a central database at CFRF via wireless internet once a fishing vessel returns to shore.
- Lobster data parameters collected by the research fleet include: carapace length, sex, females (egg bearing and/or v-notch), severity of shell disease, shell hardness, and retained/discarded.
- Jonah crab data parameters collected by the research fleet include: carapace width, sex, females (egg bearing), shell hardness, and retained/discarded.
- The date/time, location, soak time, statistical area, depth, and number of traps processed are also recorded for each sampling event.
- For bottom water temperature monitoring, each participant selects a fixed site within their normal fishing area to designate as a bottom temperature monitoring site. Data is collected and communicated over the course of the year using the Ocean Temps app.
- Participant fishermen receive a monthly stipend for sampling lobster and Jonah crab in accordance with project sampling protocols.

**Want to get involved? Please contact Aubrey Ellertson, Research Associate, CFRF**

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Project Website: <http://www.cfrfoundation.org/jonah-crab-lobster-research-fleet/>

