



COMMERCIAL FISHERIES RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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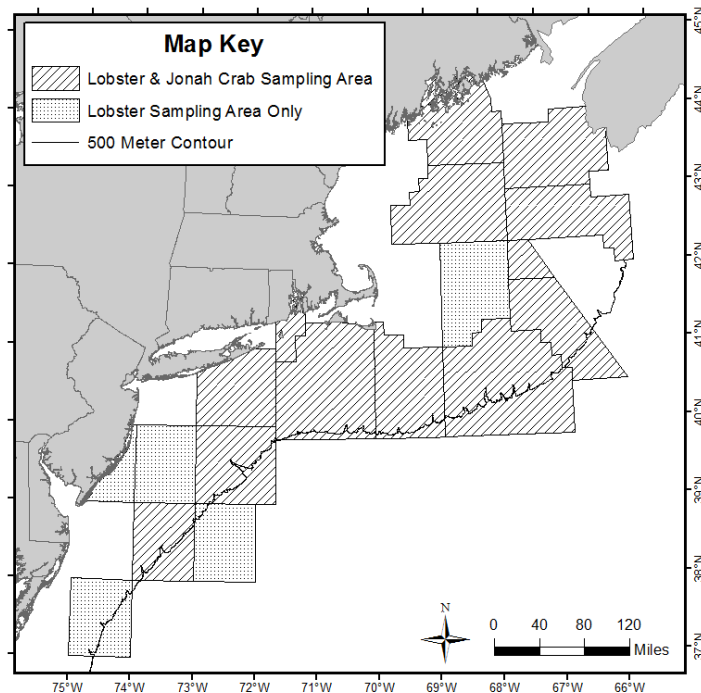
CFRF Lobster and Jonah Crab Research Fleet

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 22 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 187,600 lobsters and over 110,600 Jonah Crabs.

Participant Vessels:

- F/V Adventure -Provincetown, MA
- F/V Anna Mary - Montauk, NY
- F/V Barbara Ann- Point Judith, RI
- F/V Catherine Ann - Newport, RI
- F/V Carol Coles- Newington, NH
- F/V Dilligaf, Scituate, MA
- F/V Direction - Fairhaven, MA
- F/V Erica Knight - Point Judith, RI
- F/V Endeavour - Newport, RI
- F/V Excalibur -Newport, RI
- F/V Gladys Elaine - Newington, NH
- F/V Karen Ann - Point Judith, RI
- F/V Kristin & Michael - Portland, ME
- F/V Linda and Laura - Block Island, RI
- F/V Miss Julie - Sandwich, MA
- F/V Nathaniel Lee - Newport, RI
- F/V Rachel Leah - Newington, NH
- F/V Revolution - New Bedford, MA
- F/V Select - Point Judith, RI
- F/V Terri-Ann - Sandwich, MA
- F/V Timothy Michael - Newport, RI
- 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/>

