

## **CFRF Lobster & Jonah Crab Research Fleet - Jonah Crab Sampling Protocol**

### *Sample Size, Minimums & Maximums:*

- The goal for each vessel is to conduct at-sea Jonah crab sampling during three trips per month.
- If the crew cannot sample during three separate trips per month, the vessel may sample twice during one multi-day trip.
- While processing a trawl, the crew may cease data collection after sampling 50 crabs or 20 traps.
- If 50 crabs are not sampled during a trawl composed of less than 20 traps, the crew will continue to sample until 20 traps have been sampled.
- Vessels must sample at least 150 crabs or 60 traps per month to receive the \$425 stipend.

### *Sampling Location & Trawl Selection:*

- Participant vessels will collect data from areas they choose to fish throughout the year (with exception of the fixed temperature monitoring station).
- Fishermen will enter the number of Jonah crab trawls (using the On-Deck Data “Select Trawl” feature) that will be hauled in a day and how many trawls they intend to sample, and the tablet will randomly select which trawls to sample.
  - Offshore vessels will typically sample one trawl, and, thus will enter ‘1’
  - Inshore vessels will typically sample 2 trawls, and, thus will enter ‘2’

### *Notes:*

- At times of the year when a fishing vessel exclusively targets Jonah crabs, data may be collected for just this species. Likewise, at times of the year when fishing vessels only target lobster, the data collection for Jonah crabs may be suspended.
- Data collection for lobsters and for Jonah crab must be done separately, using the appropriate sessions within the On-Deck Data Program. Data collection cannot be co-mingled for the two species.

### *Jonah Crab Sampling Session Data Parameters:*

- Date/Time (automatically recorded)
- Location (automatically recorded)
- Soak Time (Days)
- Trawl Depth (Feet or Fathom)
- Statistical Area

### *Jonah Crab Biological Data Parameters:*

- Carapace Width (mm)
- Sex (Male, Female, Unknown)
- Discarded or Kept
- Eggs (Yes or No)
- Shell Disease (mild, moderate, severe, or no disease )
- Shell Hardness (Jelly, Paper, Hard)