



Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association

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The Honorable Senate and House of Representatives
of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House
Boston, Massachusetts

RE: Support for H5335 "An Act Establishing the Official Crustacean of the Commonwealth"

Dear Honorable Members of the General Court:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association and the hardworking men and women of the Commonwealth's commercial lobster industry, we write in strong support of the legislation H5335 entitled "An Act Establishing the Official Crustacean of the Commonwealth."

Few species are more closely tied to the identity, heritage, and economy of coastal Massachusetts than the American lobster. For generations, lobstermen and their families have helped sustain working waterfronts, preserve maritime traditions, and contribute significantly to the Commonwealth's seafood economy. From Gloucester to Provincetown, New Bedford to Marblehead, the lobster industry remains a vital part of Massachusetts' coastal communities and culture.

Established in 1963, the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association is a member-driven organization and a steadfast advocate for the Commonwealth's commercial lobster fleet. We support fisheries management approaches that protect marine resources while ensuring that fishermen can operate viable, sustainable businesses. Regulations that are disconnected from economic reality, operational feasibility, or sound science threaten not only individual fishermen, but also the working waterfronts and coastal economies that depend on them.

There are approximately 665 active commercial lobster permits landing more than 16.5 million pounds of lobster annually, generating over \$323 million in ex-vessel value for the local economy. Commercial lobster fishing is the Commonwealth's most valuable fishery, supporting thousands of jobs across harvesting, processing, distribution, boatbuilding, gear manufacturing, hospitality, and tourism. Beyond its economic impact, lobstering represents a proud way of life rooted in stewardship, resilience, and a deep connection to the waters of the Commonwealth.

Designating the lobster as the official crustacean of Massachusetts would appropriately recognize the historical and ongoing contributions of this iconic species and the industry built around it. Such recognition would celebrate the enduring importance of our fishing communities while educating future generations about the Commonwealth's rich maritime heritage.

Massachusetts has long been known around the world for the quality of its seafood and the strength of its coastal traditions. This legislation provides a meaningful opportunity to honor both.

We respectfully urge the Legislature to enact this important measure and establish the lobster as the official crustacean of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of Massachusetts' commercial fishing industry.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Casoni

Executive Director