



Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association

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March 13, 2025

Caitlin Starks
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Email: comments@asmfc.org

RE: Lobster Draft Addendum XXXII

Dear Ms. Starks,

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association (MLA) submits this letter of SUPPORT on behalf of its' ~1800 members to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) on the Draft Addendum XXXII to remove several provisions of Addendum XXVII specifically the gauge and vent size changes for Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LCMA) 1 (Gulf of Maine), 3 (offshore federal waters) and Outer Cape Cod.

Established in 1963, the MLA is a member-driven organization that accepts and supports the interdependence of species conservation and the members' collective economic interests. The membership is comprised of fishermen from New Jersey to Canada and encompasses a wide variety of gear types from fixed gear and mobile gear alike. The MLA continues to work conscientiously through the management process with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries, Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, and the New England Fisheries Management Council to ensure the continued sustainability and profitability of the resources in which our commercial fishermen are engaged in.

The MLA strongly advocates that ALL the gauge measures, up and down, be repealed as the ~40 Outer Cape Cod State Waters commercial lobstermen cannot save the resource alone and will be unfairly financially harmed. This should be an all-inclusive effort and not cherry picked.

Thank you for your thoughtful deliberation and consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Beth Casoni

MLA, Executive Director