NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

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| **1.** | **Notifying Member:** UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):**  |
| **2.** | **Agency responsible:** Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)**Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:** Please submit comments to: USA WTO TBT Enquiry Point, Email: usatbtep@nist.gov |
| **3.** | **Notified under Article 2.9.2 [****X],** **2.10.1 [****],** **5.6.2 [****],** **5.7.1 [****], 3.2 [****], 7.2 [****],** **other****:**  |
| **4.** | **Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):** Whole live lobster of the species *Homarus americanus* - Lobsters "Homarus spp.", whether in shell or not, live, fresh or chilled (HS code(s): 030632); Fish and fishery products (ICS code(s): 67.120.30) |
| **5.** | **Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document:** Draft Addendum XXX to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster for Public Comment; (7 page(s), in English) |
| **6.** | **Description of content:** The current minimum size requirement for Lobster Conservation Management Area (LCMA) 1 of 3 1/4 inches (82.5 mm), is the smallest minimum size in effect for the U.S. lobster fishery. Addendum XXVII to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster, approved in May 2023, triggered changes to the current minimum size for lobsters caught in LCMA 1 (inshore Gulf of Maine) as of 16 October 2023. Therefore, a series of gradual changes to minimum size for lobsters caught in LCMA 1 will begin 1 January 2025, starting with an increase to the minimum size in LCMA 1 from 3 1/4 inches (82.5 mm) to 3 5/16 inches (84 mm) and to 3 3/8 inches (86 mm) on 1 January 2027. These increased minimum sizes will be the smallest minimum size in effect for American lobster harvested in the United States under the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American lobster. Draft Addendum XXX considers whether to apply the Addendum XXVII minimum size increase recommendation to possession of American lobster, which, under U.S. law, would mean that the smallest minimum size for imports would match the smallest minimum size in effect for American lobster harvested in the United States. Two public hearings have been scheduled to gather input on Draft Addendum XXX to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. One general hearing will be conducted via webinar on 9 April 2024, and one hearing will be conducted in a hybrid format on 6 May 2024. Regardless of where the hybrid hearing is being conducted, all are welcome to participate in either the virtual or hybrid hearing. |
| **7.** | **Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:** Protection of animal or plant life or health; Protection of the environment |
| **8.** | **Relevant documents:** ASMFC News Release includes information about the public hearings, which will be conducted via webinar on 9 April 2024, and in a hybrid format on 6 May 2024:<https://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/65fc8f3epr08AmLobsterDraftAddXXX_PublicComment.pdf> |
| **9.** | **Proposed date of adoption:** To be determined**Proposed date of entry into force:** To be determined |
| **10.** | **Final date for comments:** 3 June 2024; WTO Members and their stakeholders are asked to submit comments to the USA TBT Enquiry Point via e-mail: usatbtep@nist.gov. Comments received by the USA TBT Enquiry Point from WTO Members and their stakeholders by 4pm Eastern Time (<https://24timezones.com/time-zone/et>) on 3 June 2024 will be shared with ASMFC. |
| **11.** | **Texts available from: National enquiry point [****]** **or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:** <https://asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/AmLobsterDraftAddendumXXX_PublicComment.pdf><https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2024/TBT/USA/24_02422_00_e.pdf> |