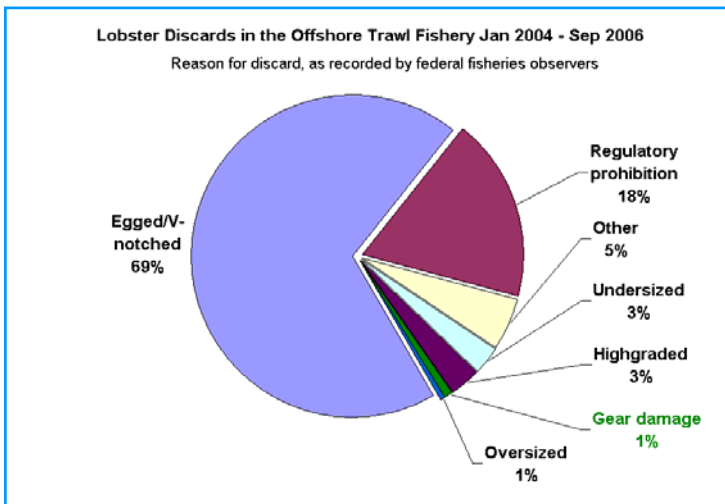
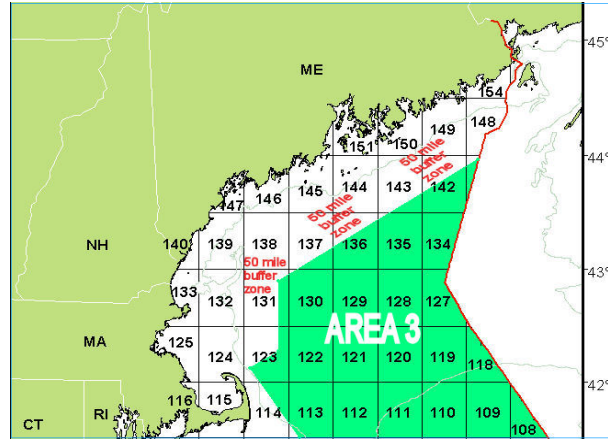




LD170 Will Not Impact Maine's Inshore Lobster Fishery

- ✓ **Bycatch harvesting would be prohibited within approximately 40-50 miles of the Maine coast**, in an area called Lobster Management Area 3. In the trap fishery, 80% of lobsters are caught within three miles of the coast. Few Maine lobstermen set their traps in Area 3.
- ✓ **Lobsters in Area 3 are not responsible for replenishing Maine's inshore lobster population.** Research indicates that Maine's coastline is seeded with eggs largely from its own inshore population, with some contribution from Canadian waters. The Area 3 offshore stock is largely a distinct population.
- ✓ **The amount of additional harvest would be minimal.** Bycatch lobster in the groundfish fishery currently accounts for about 2% of all lobster landings. LD170 is expected to add around 0.5 million pounds to the current coastwide harvest of 87.5 million pounds.
- ✓ **LD170 adheres to Maine's existing lobster conservation measures.** Bycatch lobster landings would be subject to existing regulations setting minimum and maximum sizes, and a prohibition on landing V-notch lobster.
- ✓ **LD170 does not promote "trawling for lobsters."** Bottom trawling is a federally monitored and approved method of harvesting seafood. Groundfish trawlers, and gillnet vessels, are limited by federal law to an incidental catch of lobster.



✓ **Trawling does not destroy lobsters in the ocean.** Studies show that 80% of lobsters escape capture with trawl gear, and the rate of damage from fishing gear is minimal.

✓ **Bycatch lobster landings will not affect the Maine lobster brand, or lobster prices.** Each year, Maine dealers import about \$50 million of live lobster from Canada. This supply has a far greater impact on the market than the approximately \$3 million of lobster LD170 would produce.

Please support LD 170 to preserve our fishing industry, brighten the future of the working waterfront, and **bring Maine boats back home.**

For more information, please visit:  www.betterlobsterlaw.com