

**FISHERMEN AND SCIENTISTS RESEARCH SOCIETY
PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Halifax -- March 18, 1999

FISHERMEN TO COLLECT DATA ON JUVENILE LOBSTERS

Up to 177 fishermen will be collecting data on juvenile lobsters as part of a project by The Fishermen and Scientists Research Society to look at size composition of catches. The Short Term Recruitment Index Project is designed to identify the number of lobsters caught under a specified size. Since size is one of the major considerations in the lobster fishery, the information generated by this study will be valuable to fishermen, as well as scientists and resource managers in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), as they work to develop management and conservation plans.

The Fishermen and Scientists Research Society (FSRS), a non-profit organization, is an active partnership between fishermen and scientists, developed with the overall objective to establish and maintain a network of trained fishing industry personnel to collect information relevant to the long-term sustainability of the marine fishing industry in the Atlantic Region, as well as to facilitate and promote effective communication between fishermen, scientists, and the general public.

The specific objective of the Short Term Recruitment Index Project is to collect information in Lobster Fishing Areas (LFA) 27, 29, 30, 31a, 31b, 32, 33, 34, and 35 required to develop a short term recruitment index. This will be done by collecting catch information on: number of males and females, number of juvenile lobsters, and length of juvenile lobsters.

The five year project will begin in mid-April and will utilize up to 177 vessels fishing two to five specially designed lobster traps each. Vessels will be chosen by a Selection Board consisting of an independent chair, members of the FSRS, and representatives from the industry LFA Advisory Committees. Fishermen interested in participating in the project should contact Patricia King, Project Manager, at 902-876-1160 to receive an application form. Deadline for applications is March 22, 1999.

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For more information:

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