

North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

XXI. PROTECTION OF 'V' NOTCHED LOBSTERS

The Authority for the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District in exercise of its powers under section 155 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 makes the following byelaw for the protection of 'V' notched lobsters within the District.

1. Interpretation

In this byelaw-

- (a) 'The Authority' means the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority as defined in articles 2 and 4 of the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010 (S.I. 2010 No. 2193).
- (b) 'The District' means the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority District as defined in articles 2 and 3 of the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010 (S.I. 2010 No. 2193).
- (c) 'V notched lobster' means a lobster with a marking in the shape of the letter 'V' with a depth of at least 5 mm cut into at least one of the inner flaps of the tail fan either side of the main tail flap or telson, with the apex of the letter 'V' positioned inward from the edge of the flap. The depth of the 'V' notch shall be measured vertically from the distal edge (not including the setae or small hairs) of the flap to the apex of the 'V';
- (d) 'Mutilated lobster' means any lobster with any damage likely to obscure a 'V' notch mark or absence of, either one or both inner flaps, located either side of the main tail flap or telson. Any other damage or mutilation to, or absence of, any other tail flap, excluding the two inner flaps, is not classed as mutilation for the purpose of this byelaw regulation; and
- (e) 'Flap' means any part of the five flaps of the tail fan of a lobster.

2. General Provisions

- (a) No person shall fish for, take, retain, store, carry, transport or land any 'V' notched lobster or mutilated lobster of the species *Homarus gammarus*.
- (b) Any 'V' notched lobster or mutilated lobster shall be returned immediately to the sea in a position as near as possible to that part of the sea from which it was taken.

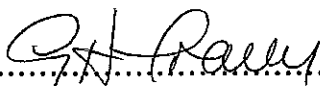
- (c) The byelaw with the title 'protection of 'V' notched lobsters' made by the Committee for the North Eastern Sea Fisheries District in exercise of its power under section 5 of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 in force immediately before the making of this byelaw is revoked.

Explanatory note

(This note is not part of the byelaw)

The intention of this byelaw is to protect lobsters which have been marked with a 'V' notch and to strengthen the biomass of sexually mature lobsters present within the exploited fishery.

This byelaw prohibits fishing for, taking, retaining, storing, carrying, transporting or landing lobsters that have been marked with a 'V' notch or mutilated so as to obscure a 'V' notch.

Approved for Consultation..........Date 10 August 2012

**George Traves MBE Chairman
North Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority**