

In the United States, many grounds, where large and remunerative fisheries used to be carried on, are now completely fished out. Others are giving much decreased supplies, and the lobsters taken are of a smaller size than formerly. This decrease has been most marked in such regions as have been fished the longest, and especially in the shallow water areas near the coast, which are easy of access and which have been subjected to increased drains. The greatest decrease has occurred within the past fifteen or twenty years, or since the establishment of numerous factories and the perfected methods of transporting fresh lobsters to all parts of the country.

Viewing these facts with alarm, the Minister deemed it advisable to have the following Fishery Regulations drafted for consideration, as forming a basis for a scheme to secure permanency to so valuable an interest and source of wealth to Canadian fishermen.

DRAFT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR THE LOBSTER FISHERY.

1. No one shall fish for, catch, kill, can, preserve, or cure lobsters, or keep them alive in ponds, or other places, except under license from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

2.—(a) No trap, boat, net or other device for taking lobsters shall be used, until the owner or owners thereof have caused an application in writing, setting forth the number and description of such boats, traps or nets or other devices, to be filed with the nearest fishery office, who, if no valid objection exists, may, with the approval of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, issue a license, in the form appended to this regulation, marked A, which shall be countersigned by the inspector of fisheries for the district.

(b) Any boat, trap, net or other device for taking lobsters, used before such license has been obtained, and every boat, trap, net or other device for taking lobsters used in excess of the number permitted by the license, or not according to the description contained in such license, shall be deemed illegal, and shall be liable to seizure and forfeiture, together with the lobsters caught therein; and the owner or owners, or person or persons, using the same, shall also be liable to the penalties and costs provided by the Fisheries Act.

3. All boats, traps, or trawl-buoys, and all "cars" used for the purpose of keeping lobsters alive, shall have the names, initials or mark of the owner or owners legibly marked or branded thereon, and such name, initials or mark shall be recorded in the license. Any boat, trap, trawl-buoy or "cars" used without such names, initials or marks, shall be deemed to have been used without a license and shall be liable to seizure and forfeiture, together with the lobsters caught therein, and the owner or owners, or person or persons, using the same shall also be liable to the penalties and costs provided by the Fisheries Act.

4. A fee of one cent shall be levied on each trap, or other device used for catching lobsters, which fee shall be paid when the application for a license is made.

5.—(a) On that part of the coast of the Atlantic Ocean extending from Cranberry lighthouse, off Cape Canso, westward, and following the coast line of the Bay of Fundy to the United States boundary line, it shall be unlawful to fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell or have in possession (without lawful excuse) any lobster or lobsters between the 1st day of July and the 31st day of December in each year, both days inclusive.

(b) In the waters of the Province of Quebec (including Magdalen Islands and Anticosti), the waters of Prince Edward Island, the remaining waters of the Province of New Brunswick, and the remaining waters of the Province of Nova Scotia, not already included in paragraph 5 of the present regulations, it shall be unlawful to fish for, catch, kill or have in possession (without lawful excuse) any lobster or lobsters between the 15th day of July and the 31st day of December in each year, both days inclusive.