

APPENDIX

PRESS RELEASE RESPECTING LIMITATION ON LOBSTER FISHERY

As a result of a general demand among lobster fishermen a program of limitation of the number of lobster traps per boat will be introduced in all of the lobster fishing districts in the maritime provinces commencing with the 1968 lobster fishing seasons Fisheries Minister H. J. Robichaud announced today. The numbers of traps will be reduced further in most districts in 1969.

A limit of 375 traps is to be applied in Districts Nos. 1, 6B, 7A, and 7C, and in that portion of District No. 4 between Burns Point and Baccaro Point off the southern coast of Nova Scotia. In these districts the limit is to be reduced to 300 traps at the commencement of the 1969 lobster fishing seasons. This year there was a 500 trap limit set in the northern portion of District 7B.

In District No. 3 there will be a limit of 300 traps, and this will be reduced to 200 in 1969.

In District No. 5, and in that portion of District No. 4 between Baccaro Point and Cole Harbour a trap limit of 250 has been set for 1968, with a reduction to 150 in 1969.

In District No. 6A there will be a limit of 300 traps in 1968 with a reduction to 200 for the 1969 season.

In District No. 7B there will be a limit of 400 traps in 1968 and this will be reduced to 300 traps in 1969.

In District No. 8 there has been a lobster trap limit of 250 for the past two years, and this will remain for 1968.

These lobster trap limits are based on extensive studies by both the department and the Fisheries Research Board of Canada. Mr. Robichaud pointed out that the majority of lobster fishermen in all districts favour some limitation of the numbers permitted to engage in the fishery and, in addition to the trap limits, consideration is being given to means of restricting entry into the lobster fishery in an equitable manner.

Earlier this year Mr. Robichaud pointed out that lobsters are a vital resource for thousands of Canada's inshore fishermen. This made it imperative that this resource be managed as wisely as possible to ensure its

continuance on a profitable basis to the fishermen.

The lobster fishing effort has greatly increased in the past several years, and thousands of small boats are engaged in harvesting this lucrative crustacean. Last year there were 25,000 lobster fishing licences issued. This was 200 over the previous year. In 1966 more than 30 million pounds of lobster were landed, and a total of \$18,000,000 was received by fishermen.

The areas covered by the different districts are as follows:

District No. 1—In the bay of Fundy off the New Brunswick counties of Charlotte and St. John.

District No. 3—In the bay of Fundy off the Nova Scotia counties of Annapolis, Kings, Hants, Colchester and Cumberland, and the New Brunswick counties of Albert and Westmorland.

District No. 4—Off the Nova Scotia counties of Digby, Yarmouth, Shelbourne, Queens, Lunenburg and part of Halifax county.

District No. 5—Off the Nova Scotia counties of Guysborough and that part of Halifax County east of Cole Harbour.

District No. 6A—Takes in that part of the southern-eastern shore of Cape Breton island from Pointe Michaud to Indian Pt.

District No. 6B—That part of Cape Breton from Indian Pt. to High Capes.

District No. 7A—Off the Nova Scotia counties of Richmond and that part of Guysborough between Ragged Pt. and Pointe Michaud.

District 7B—Takes in Nova Scotia counties of Inverness, Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester and part of Cumberland, and the P.E.I. counties of Queens and Kings and the north shore of Prince county.

District 7C—Off the New Brunswick counties of Restigouche, Gloucester and Northumberland.

District 8—Off the New Brunswick counties of Kent, Westmorland and part of Cumberland, also off the western side of the P.E.I. county of Prince.