

**ALWTRP Public Hearing  
University of Maine at Machias  
Machias, ME  
August 5, 2013**

**NMFS PRD Staff—Dave Gouveia, Kate Swails, Mike Asaro, John Higgins  
Number in attendance: 50  
Including:**

- Patrick Keliher, Commissioner of Maine’s Department of Marine Resources
- Sarah Cotnoir, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Take Reduction Team State Representative Alternate
- Patrice McCarron, Maine Lobstermen’s Association, Take Reduction Team Industry Representative

P. Keliher and P. McCarron provided oral comments on behalf of their constituents. They will submit written comments for the record as well.

**Closures**

Commenters were opposed to closures stating that the closures would result in displacement of effort and creation of a wall around the closure area. If the Agency moves forward with the Jordan Basin closure the boundary of this closure should follow the LMA 3 boundary and not include portions of LMA1. Commenters also noted that there is not enough risk reduction from closures and the effects of these proposed closures are too great for industry.

**Gear Marking**

Commenters opposed gear marking in exempt waters stating it is operationally impossible since many often shift in and out of the exemption zone. Would support a mark that would separate Maine from other LMA areas. Marks need to be more region specific.

**Implementation Date**

The final rule effective date should align with the trap/tag date (June 1). Should not have the rule be effective in the fall as this is a busy time of year for industry.

**Increasing the number of traps per trawl**

Some support for the number of traps per trawl proposed under Alternative 5. In the final rule the proposed separations of 0-3, 3-6, 6-12, and 12+ need to be well defined.