



NORTH ATLANTIC LOBSTER COALITION WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2009 MARKET DEMAND AND SUPPLY UPDATE MASSACHUSETTS REPORT

DEMAND is light overall. Some dealers are reporting that there is some market activity but it's not really at a moderate level. Some Canadian processors are around and are buying Massachusetts product.

SUPPLY is adequate to more than adequate for the market demand. Local landings have been pretty good in spite of losing several days to bad weather. Maine lobsters are being brought in as needed. There are some Maine pounded hard shells which are also available. Most inventories however, are being maintained using locally caught product. There still are a lot of softer – new shells (processor grade) lobsters in the landings. Inventories contain a mix of softs, firm new shells and some hard shells. There has also been some offshore lobsters landed.

QUALITY of the available product remains fair to good. The softer new shells, which are generally only fair, (shipability) have been running at 30 – 50% of the catches. The firm new shells, which are generally good, make up most of the remaining percentages with hard shell product which is very good remaining in the minority.

PRICE is expected to hold. The demand is not expected to increase even if there is a lower price so on this front, there is no reason for a lower boat price. If even more soft shellers end up in the landings, this could tip the scale because it would then depend on what the Canadian processors will pay. Currently the processors are buying Massachusetts softs and culls at \$2.75 to \$3.00 (US\$). As lobsters firm up, there'll be less reliance on what the processors will pay. Maine picked over product (no culls or softs) is being brought into the Boston market at \$3.25 to \$3.75. Some hard shell pounded Maine lobsters are available at \$4.75 to \$5.00. Some offshore lobsters have been landed at \$4.10 to \$4.25 depending on the quality and sizes in the landings.

LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME – 2008

- Boston boat price \$3.75 - \$4.00 Straight and a \$3.80 - \$3.50 split price
- Offshore lobsters were landed at \$6.00 to \$6.50
- Maine product was arriving at \$3.90 to \$4.75
- Canadian processors were buying product at \$3.75 to \$4.00 (US\$)

NOTE: Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick has issued a Proclamation designating October 7, 2009 as Massachusetts Lobster Day in the Commonwealth.

MAINE – AVERAGE PRICES “LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME” - 2008

- Straight \$3.40 - \$3.55
- New \$3.35 - \$3.65
- Old \$5.25 - \$6.35
- Select \$5.00 - \$6.35



NORTH ATLANTIC LOBSTER COALITION

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Week of: September 28, 2009

U .S. AREA REPORT: Prices try to reflect bonuses and may vary between dealers.

Submitted by: **U.S. ASSOCIATIONS**

Prices actually paid by certain dealers in an area may be higher or lower than what is listed here.

<u>AREA</u>	<u>PRICE</u>					<u>COMMENTS</u>
	STRAIGHT	OLDSHELL HARDSHELL	NEWSHELL SOFTSHELL	CULLS CHX/QTRS	SELECT/2+	
MAINE (*reflects this wks boat price plus anticipated end of year bonus)						
Kittery	2.90				5.00	Catch has dropped off. Select price is hard shell select
Cape Porpoise	2.75					Last week's info
Portland		4.25	2.75			Catch has dropped off
Yarmouth		5.00	2.75			Catch has slowed down
Harpswell	2.50-3.50					
Small Point	2.65					Catch is slow
Boothbay*		4.25	2.60			
Sprucehead / Thomaston*	2.65				3.80	Last week's info
Vinalhaven*		4.50	2.50			Last week's info
Stonington*	2.85	4.85	3.85			Straight price, new shell select price, hard shell select price
Swans Island			2.80		3.80	Catch is a little off, not bad
Jonesport / Beals*	2.71				3.96	Catch is kind of slow
Cutler *	2.70				4.20	Catch is off
CANADA						
Grand Manan (LFA38)	3.50 CDN					
SW Nova Scotia (LFA34) (Includes Bonus)						Season is closed
MASSACHUSETTS						
	STRAIGHT	HARDSHELL CHX / QTRS	CULLS	NEW /SOFT SHELL	SELECT +	
Boston	2.85 - 3.25	3.00	3.00	2.55		Catch is OK
Cape Cod		3.40- 3.75	2.50- 2.65	2.50 - 2.65	4.25 Outer Cape	Catch is good
New Bedford		4.00	3.00	2.50		Catch is pretty good
North Shore	2.75 - 3.00					Catch is spotty but in general pretty good
South Shore	2.85 - 3.00	3.70	2.60	2.60		Catch is just ok
RHODE ISLAND		4.00	3.00	2.50	4.50 - 5.00	Catch is decent
NEW HAMPSHIRE	2.85					Catch is good
LONG ISLAND NY	4.00					No catch – may pick up a little in Fall
CONNECTICUT		4.25	3.25	3.25		Not much to be had – most traps out of water