

## **It is now “LEGAL” to purchase lobster tails in Massachusetts**

On Friday July 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 the Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association was informed that the Governor signed the budget with the amendment legalizing the sale of “LOBSTER TAILS” 3ozs or greater here in the Commonwealth. This has been a 3 year uphill climb as now it is time to move more lobsters to the market.

### **Wording amending Section 44 of Chapter 130**

**SECTION 107.** Section 44 of chapter 130 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 1481 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the third paragraph and inserting in place 1482 thereof the following paragraph:- 1483

If the measurement of any such lobster taken from 1 or the other eye sockets is of the 1484 required length, such lobster shall be deemed to be a legal lobster. In all prosecutions under this 1485 section, any mutilation of any lobster which affects its measurement as aforesaid shall be prima 1486 facie evidence that the lobster was or is less than the required length; provided, however, that the 1487 director shall, by regulation approved by the marine fisheries advisory commission, allow the on-1488 shore processing in the commonwealth of live lobsters of legal length into frozen shell-on lobster 1489 tails by wholesale dealers that are licensed by the department of public health under section 77G 1490 of chapter 94. Processed frozen lobster tails may be possessed, sold or offered for sale in the 1491 commonwealth by any wholesale dealer, retail dealer or food establishments and such food 1492 product may be possessed by a consumer. The processing, possession or sale of said frozen 1493 lobster tails pursuant to this section shall be limited to lobster tails weighing 3 ounces or more. 1494 The packaging of processed frozen lobster tails pursuant to this section as a food product shall be 1495 labeled in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. This section shall 1496 not apply to common carriers having lobster in possession for the purpose of transportation.

Another job well done by all of you who helped push this issue up, through and ultimately to a victory! This has been a 3 year uphill climb and now it is time to move more lobsters to the market.

*Congratulations!*

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