CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: RI LOBSTER F/Vs

Deadline: May 19, 2020

General Description
• The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation and the University of Rhode Island are seeking four commercial lobster F/Vs to participate in a South Fork Wind Farm Ventless Trap Survey from August 2020 – July 2022.
• This project aims to collect pre-construction data on the distribution, abundance and composition of lobster and crab species in the South Fork Wind Farm Work Area (yellow rectangle in figure below) and two nearby control areas (not shown).

Participant Responsibilities
• Each F/V participant will charter two biologists for three days per month from May-November in each year of the project.
• The first survey day each month will be dedicated to baiting and setting 100 traps (10 trawls of 10 traps).
• The second survey day will be devoted to hauling and resetting the gear and sampling the catch.
• The third survey day will be devoted to hauling the gear and sampling the catch.
• All survey days within a month will be five days apart to achieve a standardized soak time.
• F/V crew will be responsible for setting and hauling all traps, and the two biologists will be responsible for sampling and data collection of all catch. All catch will be returned to the water.

Participant Requirements
• A Letter of Acknowledgment from NOAA Fisheries
• CFRF will apply for this with the selected vessels
• Federal lobster permit holder
• F/V length greater than 35 feet
• F/V with enclosed cabin
• Dedicated crew members (captain & deckhand)
• US Coast Guard certification & proof of fishing vessel safety inspection
• Certificate of insurance

Timeline
• July 2020: Equipment prep and training of all biologists and participant fishermen.
• August – November 2020, May – November 2021, May-July 2022
  o 14 months: Ventless trap survey with three survey days per month

Deadline for applications: Tuesday, May 19, 2020

If you are interested in applying, please complete and return the application form that was also attached to this email. The application requests an estimated daily charter rate for the proposed work.

Questions? Contact:
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