



# New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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February 23, 2016

Dear Retail Lobster and Crab License Holder,

This letter is to inform you of recent changes to regulations regarding the retail sale of lobster tails. Uncooked, raw, shell-on lobster tails (green lobster tails), may now be purchased and sold in New Hampshire by properly licensed retailers. Wholesale businesses must have a Wholesale Marine Species license and retail establishments must have a Retail Trade Lobster and Crab License. All must comply with the regulations enclosed which are summarized below.

In summary:

- The packages of green lobster tails must be labelled with the following information that is put on the package at the processing plant: a description of the product, the lobster tail processing permit number, the address of the facility where processed, and the date they were processed.
- The label must remain on the package and in the store or facility until all the green lobster tails in the package are sold at the retail level.
- The individual green lobster tails must remain whole, intact and in the shell through final sale to the public.
- All green lobster tails possessed and sold in New Hampshire must weigh at least 3 ounces.
- All wholesale and retail vendors must keep detailed records of inventory and disposition of all green lobster tail product sold including the name of the processing facility and permit number for at least two years.

Also, if you wish to process green lobster tails (i.e. take live lobsters and separate the tail to create uncooked, raw shell-on lobster tails for sale) you must first obtain a Lobster Tail Processing Permit at the Region 3 office in Durham.

If you have further questions about the rules, please contact Renee Zobel or Lt. Mike Eastman at the Region 3 Office phone number below.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Grout  
Chief Marine Fisheries

CC: Lt. Michael Eastman  
Cheri Patterson

**REGION 1**  
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Fis 610.03 Lobster Tail Sales.

(a) No person may possess for the purpose of sale, sell, or offer for sale uncooked, raw shell-on American lobster tails, also known as green lobster tails, whether frozen or unfrozen, that have been separated from the carapace without complying with the following requirements:

(1) Lobster tails shall remain whole, intact and in the shell;

(2) All packages of frozen or unfrozen lobster tails shall be labeled with:

- a. Description of the product;
- b. The lobster tail processing permit number;
- c. The address of the facility where processed; and
- d. The date they were processed.

(3) Such labels shall be adhered to the package at all times through the final consumer sale or until the contents of the package have been sold.

(4) Lobster tails shall be a minimum of 3 ounces in weight.

(b) The absence of the packaging labels as required by this rule shall be prima facie evidence of a violation.

(c) Vendors shall keep detailed, accurate records of all inventory and disposition of lobster tails, including the name of the processing facility and permit number, when applicable, for a period of 2 years.