

RESPONSIBLE
FISHING
SINCE 1976

CAPTAIN RANDALL SCOTT

Shelburne, Nova Scotia



SUSTAINABILITY PROFILE

CANADIAN LOBSTER

Homarus americanus



Sustainability is a core business value embedded in Clearwater's culture and expressed throughout our mission, strategies and values. Stewardship of our resources is not only good for business, we see it as our personal and corporate responsibility.

Learn more about the Canadian lobster fisheries and our commitment to the long-term sustainability of the resource.



WILD CAUGHT



PRODUCT OF CANADA

WHO CAN FISH

Fishing access is permitted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

OFFSHORE

There are eight licences in the offshore fishery. Clearwater holds 6 of the offshore licences and has a harvest arrangement with Membertou First Nation which holds the other two offshore licences.

INSHORE

There are several thousand licence holders in the small boat inshore fishery in Atlantic Canada. Most of these inshore licences are held by commercial independent owner/operators and a small number of communal licences held by Indigenous communities.

HARVEST AREAS & SEASONS

In addition to harvesting in the Eastern Canadian offshore fishery, Clearwater purchases lobster from the Maritime Canada inshore fishery. All Canadian lobster harvesting is managed based on discrete lobster fishing areas (LFAs). The offshore fishery in LFA 41 operates year round and has a set quota. The inshore LFAs are managed through a combination of assigned fishing seasons, specific trap limits, and limiting the size of fishing vessels.

See the map below for more information on the fishing locations of Clearwater's lobster supply.

PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH

The offshore fishery is subject to approximately 10% at-sea observer coverage, the highest of any lobster fishery in Atlantic Canada. At-sea observers are required by DFO and are funded by industry. They collect data on lobster size and reproductive potential, as well as bycatch of non-target species.

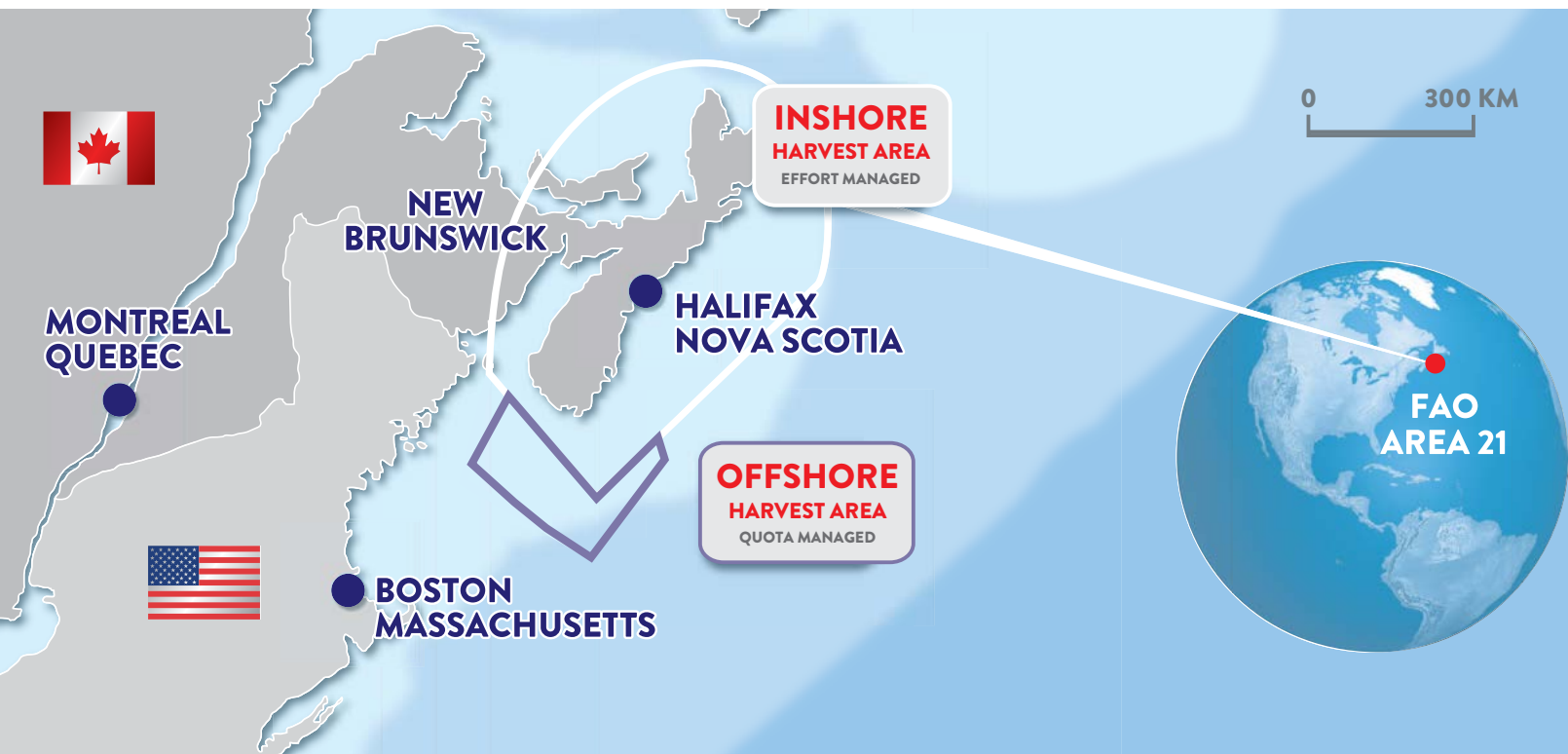


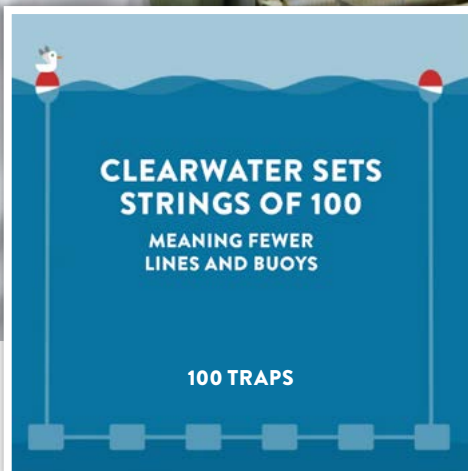
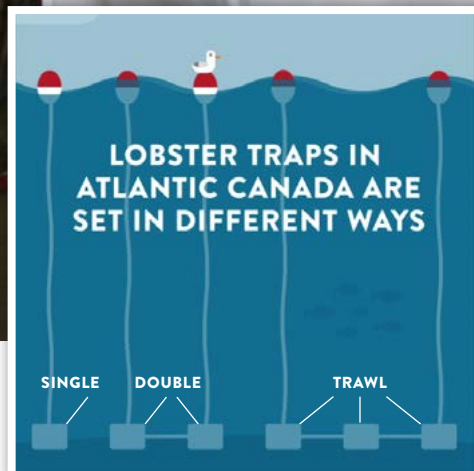
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**FISHING GEAR
DEPLOYMENT
REDUCTION**

Clearwater also carries out independent research. Research by contracted scientists help us and DFO understand the impact of different gear tending times on the catch of lobster and bycatch species.

Our research and development team carries out work to help Clearwater test gear to reduce entanglement risk and help reduce overall fishing gear deployment by 50 per cent since 2013.

A team of Clearwater biologists developed and continuously improve our handling and storage systems with lobster welfare in mind, in order to maintain lobster quality and health.





RESPONSIBLE HARVESTING

Baited trap fishing selects for lobsters and other crustaceans, so fish bycatch is minimal. Undersized lobsters, egg-bearing females and all non-lobster bycatch is returned at sea. Survivability of lobster and other crustacean bycatch returned to sea is very high.

The bottom impact associated with trap fishing is minor, with only the area directly under the trap being influenced, and scientific studies have shown that species moved by the trap return to the area after the trap is removed. In order to protect areas that are very sensitive to disturbance, closed areas are implemented throughout the lobster stock range. For example, coral protection areas are established in deep water of the Northeast Channel and Corsair Canyon to protect deep sea coral habitats. Coral interaction is not an issue in the lobster fishery as the fishery takes place in waters shallower than the coral distributions.

Independent research indicates that the risk of whale entanglements from offshore lobster fishing gear is very low.¹ To further reduce the risk to marine mammals and turtles, Clearwater implements standard operating procedures for gear deployment and retrieval, and marks all traps, ropes, and buoys for easy identification. Gear set in strings of 100 dramatically reduces the number of vertical lines in the water, and our work to reduce the overall amount of gear deployed further reduces the already low risk of entanglements. In Canada, all fisheries must report any marine mammal interactions to DFO.

Gear loss is extremely rare in the offshore lobster fishery. All lobster fishing traps are required to have biodegradable panels to mitigate the impact of ghost fishing. All Atlantic lobster fisheries must report gear loss and retrievals to DFO and many Atlantic Canadian fisheries participate in gear recovery programs.

¹ Sean W. Brillant, Tonya Wimmer, Robert W. Rangeley, Christopher T. Taggart, A timely opportunity to protect North Atlantic right whales in Canada, Marine Policy, Volume 81, 2017, Pages 160-166, ISSN 0308-597X. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2017.03.030>.

TRACEABILITY

Internal monitoring systems on our state-of-the-art vessel and at our land-based facilities allow Clearwater to trace the lobsters we harvest back to the date it was caught and the fishing area. Lobsters purchased from the inshore lobster fishery come to Clearwater through shore buyers who record the harvester or group of harvesters and the LFA from which lobsters are sourced. Data on all lobsters is entered into our traceability system and can be tracked throughout the entire Clearwater supply chain.

CERTIFICATIONS

Clearwater has access to Marine Stewardship Council certified Canadian lobster through its certified supply chain.

SCIENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT

DFO is responsible for carrying out scientific assessments to form the basis for sustainable harvesting and ensure that overfishing does not occur. Scientific data used to manage the fishery is collected from both fishery-independent and fishery-dependent sources. Data is collected from science research surveys, science traps, at-sea observers, logbooks, dockside monitoring and purchase slips.

In the offshore fishery, DFO sets an annual total allowable catch (TAC) and in the inshore fishery removals are constrained by setting limits on fishing effort such as limiting the number of days for fishing, the number of traps and boat size. All lobster fisheries have traps with escape hatches, are subject to limits on the size of animals that can be kept and must return any lobsters carrying eggs or those marked as good breeders. Inshore landings account for the vast majority of lobster supply, representing 99% of Canadian landings. Clearwater's harvest from the offshore represents approximately 1% of Canadian landings. Clearwater's procurement from the inshore varies seasonally and in recent years has been 1-5% of the inshore landings.



clearwater.ca



**REMARKABLE SEAFOOD,
RESPONSIBLE CHOICE**