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## **Gulf of Maine Lobster**

### **Stakeholder Announcement – Variation Request Approval**

**27 August 2021**

This announcement is to inform stakeholders that MRAG Americas has extended the deadline to submit the third annual surveillance audit report for the fishery from 31 August 2021 (old deadline) to 041 October 2021 (new deadline).

On 23 August 2021, MRAG Americas submitted to the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) a request to extend the deadline to submit the surveillance audit report for the fishery by three months. The request was made due to:

- The COVID pandemic delaying governmental processes, including the one that was set to finalize the Final Rule (the Proposed Rule) that would lift their current suspension.
- Delaying the publication of the report may give enough time for the Final Rule to be published, and thus the management measures will be “in place” during the lobster fishing season, and this can be reflected in the surveillance report.

On 26 August 2021, the MSC approved MRAG Americas' request provided that:

- The report is submitted no later than 01 October 2021. No more extensions will be granted.
- Stakeholders are informed of this delay.
- The MSC database is updated with relevant timeline information.

More information about the fishery including relevant documents can be found here:  
<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/gulf-of-maine-lobster-fishery/@@view>.

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