



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
166 Water Street  
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

July 12, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: MRAG Americas  
Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: Amy Martins   
Branch Chief, Fisheries Sampling Branch (FSB)

SUBJECT: Labeling Lobster Egg Stage Photographs

Modified protocols for lobster egg staging on Pot and Trap trips were implemented in 2016 (Data Entry Manual, p.211; Operations Manual, p. 157) in conjunction with the release of updated manuals. All current Pot and Trap certified observers received instruction on proper identification of lobster egg development stages and steps for egg stage verification.

Observers must submit a photo of each egg stage encountered on each observed trip. When multiple egg stages are present on a single haul, it is difficult for FSB staff to verify observers' photographs without clear labels to indicate which stage the observer identified. There are plans to incorporate egg stage labeling as part of the upload process, but until this is developed, we have created egg development stage flip-cards that may be photographed alongside the lobster.



At left, see an example of the recommended use of the flip-book.

If observers have questions related to egg staging or the verification process, they are encouraged to contact Glenn Chamberlain at [Glenn.Chamberlain@noaa.gov](mailto:Glenn.Chamberlain@noaa.gov) or (508) 495 2153 during business hours.