

Maine baby lobster decline could end high catches

April 22 2014, by Patrick Whittle

Scientists say the number of baby lobsters settling off the rocky coast of Maine continues to steadily decline—possibly foreshadowing an end to the recent record catches that have boosted New England's lobster fishery.

The University of Maine's American Lobster Settlement Index shows that all 11 of the baby lobster settlement areas it tracks in the Gulf of Maine had fewer first-year lobsters in 2013 than 2011. All 11 areas show less than half their 2007 levels. Lobsters typically take about eight years to reach the legal harvesting size.

The [downward trend](#) has lobstermen, retailers, [state officials](#) and ocean scientists concerned that the impact could soon be felt on dinner tables nationwide. Maine lobsters were 85 percent of the nation's catch in 2012.

© 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Maine baby lobster decline could end high catches (2014, April 22) retrieved 28 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-04-maine-baby-lobster-decline-high.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
