

Green Sea Urchin Flexible Harvest Guidance

This document provides guidance for Green Sea Urchin harvesters who choose to utilize the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Flexible Harvest Option to carry over product (i.e. CARRED totes) until a sale transaction occurs. The Flexible Harvest option was created in the 2024 DMR rulemaking cycle of [Chapter 26 \(Sections 26.12, 26.4 and 26.5\)](#). Please send any questions regarding these guidelines to Jen Harris, Marine Resource Management Coordinator (Jennifer.harris@maine.gov or 207-458-9234). Urchin science questions may be sent to Lulu Bates (Elija.D.Bates@maine.gov). Harvest questions may also be directed to your local [Marine Patrol Officer](#).

1. **The tote limit per zone per day HAS NOT CHANGED utilizing this option.** Sea Urchin harvesters shall only fish for, take, possess at sea, or land no more than nine (in Zone 1) or six (in Zone 2) standard size stackable fish totes per day. Harvesters remain responsible for tracking their fishing days per zone. **This remains 15 days in Zone 1 and 30 days in Zone 2** (DMR Chapter 26.4).
2. A harvester may possess **the number of totes equal to the daily limit multiplied by the number of open harvest days in which the license holder is authorized and elects to fish that calendar week (Monday – Friday)** (DMR Chapter 26.4).
3. A harvester **must SELL all product by Friday**. No totes may be carried over to the following week (DMR Chapter 26.4).
4. A harvester must **tag their own totes with the harvest date and their harvester license number** and hold their daily catch in cold storage (DMR Chapter 26.12).
5. **A harvester MUST report their daily trip electronically through either LEEDS or VESL.** Federal vessels may use Fish Online (FOL) or eTRIPS. One use of an urchin fob no longer equates to one fishing day (DMR Chapter 26.5).
 - a. Rather than using "NO SALE" in your report, use "CARRED" and report the intended dealer. This will complete the trip report. If the dealer changes, the trip report will require an edit.
 - b. When reporting weight, please use the information you have based on your prior years' fishing to estimate your typical tote weight. Actual weight will be provided by the dealer when you sell. The dealer-provided total weight should match the sum of the fishermen's daily tote calculations plus any additional weight sold that day.
 - c. Landings Program staff are available to help set up favorite settings electronically (Landings Program assistance: 207-633-9414). If you have concerns related to your urchin fob, please contact the Landings Program for assistance.
6. Processors suggest totes be kept between 32 – 35 Degrees Fahrenheit temperature, to maintain the quality of the urchins for purchase.