

MASSACHUSETTS PRIMARY BUYER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

As in 2008, all MA dealers who are primary buyers are required to report their purchases of any marine species (including lobster, shellfish or those intended for bait purposes) from fishermen in 2009. Primary buyers also include fishermen who have a dealer's permit and are acting as their own dealer and selling product that they've caught, (essentially, they are "buying from themselves", and must report their transactions). This reporting requirement covers **all dealers in Massachusetts**, whether federally permitted or not. All reported data is entered into a coast wide database system run by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP). This is a joint program managed by ACCSP in conjunction with all of the Atlantic States and the Federal Government. For more information on ACCSP, visit the ACCSP website at www.accsp.org.

Federally permitted primary buyers in Massachusetts, other than those that only have a federal lobster or tuna permit, are considered to be "**federal-reporting**" dealers, and will report all of their purchases of all species from fishermen electronically (via a web based application or other software). All other primary buyers in Massachusetts are considered "**state-reporting**" dealers, including those that only have a federal lobster or tuna permit. These dealers, although not required to report electronically, can and are encouraged to do so. Many state-reporting dealers are already reporting their transactions electronically in 2008 and are expected to continue to do so in 2009. Regardless whether you are a federal-reporting or a state-reporting dealer, all transactions will be submitted to the same database system and all species purchased should be submitted together. For example, if you are a federal-reporting dealer and you purchase groundfish as well as shellfish, you will report both your groundfish and shellfish transactions electronically. For information about federal permits, contact the National Marine Fisheries Service in Gloucester at 978-281-9370 or go to their website at: www.nero.noaa.gov/fso. If you will be a state-reporting dealer and have questions or would like to report electronically, contact the MA Division of Marine Fisheries at 978-282-0308 x117.

Note that all transactions made directly with fisherman must be reported, regardless of the species purchased or whether the fisherman is federally permitted or not. All vessels and/or fishermen selling any marine species in Massachusetts must have a MA commercial fishing permit. Each commercial permit has a unique Permit ID number (formerly called the DMF ID) this number that must be included in each transaction. Requirements for all primary buyers include:

1. All transactions with fishermen, or primary purchases, must be reported. This includes purchases of bait products as well as species caught and sold by fishermen acting as their own dealer.
2. Transactions are trip-based. Information collected and submitted by the dealer is as follows:
 - ❖ Date landed and purchased
 - ❖ Fisherman purchased from, including the state Permit ID Number (not the 4-digit permit number)
 - ❖ Species and amount (in lbs, bushels, etc.)
 - ❖ Disposition
 - ❖ Price paid
 - ❖ If shellfish, designated shellfish growing area the species of shellfish was harvested from
3. Each week's transactions, beginning 00:01 on Sunday and ending at 24:00 on the following Saturday, will be due by 24:00 on Tuesday of the following week, or within 3 days of the end of the week. If you will be a state-reporting dealer and are interested in reporting your transactions electronically rather than on paper, answer YES to question 2C on the front and we will contact you to get you started reporting in this fashion.

Further information including primary buyer packets (worksheets, instructions, FAQ's, etc.) will be mailed after the receipt of this primary buyer application. For questions about reporting requirements, call the DMF Statistics Project at 978-282-0308 x117, or visit the DMF website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries and follow the link for Dealer Reporting.