

January 10, 2022 <u>MarineFisheries Advisory</u>

Non-Commercial Lobster Permit Updates

2021 Non-Commercial Lobster Permits Extended Through February 28, 2022: Due to delays in the processing of 2022 permit renewals and the new MassFishHunt permitting system, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has extended the validity of 2021 Non-Commercial Lobster Permits through February 28, 2022. Valid 2022 permits will be required beginning on March 1, 2022. Although there is currently a seasonal statewide trap gear closure (advisory), DMF is aware that some divers may want to harvest lobster during the winter months and is extending the validity of 2021 permits to accommodate this activity while renewals are being processed.

Paper Non-Commercial Lobster Permit Renewal Application Mailing: Paper renewal applications will be mailed out within the next 10 days. Renewals can be mailed back using the enclosed return envelope or brought to either the DMF <u>Gloucester</u> or <u>New Bedford</u> offices for processing.

Online Purchase and Renewal of Non-Commercial Lobster Permits: Please note, resident noncommercial lobster permits are not yet available online in the new MassFishHunt permitting system. We anticipate this permit being available online in the coming weeks and will send another email when it is. For now, permits can be purchased or renewed through the mail or at DMF's <u>Gloucester</u> or <u>New</u> <u>Bedford</u> offices. More information on the non-commercial lobster permit, including a downloadable application, can be found <u>here</u>.

If you have any questions, please email us at marine.fish@mass.gov.