



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**Division of Marine Fisheries**  
(617) 626-1520 | [mass.gov/MarineFisheries](https://mass.gov/MarineFisheries)



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December 8, 2025  
*Marine Fisheries Advisory*

**Attention to All Commercial Shellfish Fishers and Wholesale Dealers:  
DMF Will No Longer Issue Shellfish Transaction Cards in 2026**

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Beginning in the 2026 commercial permit year, DMF will no longer issue shellfish transaction cards to commercial shellfish permit holders. Shellfish transaction cards are those hard plastic embossed cards that were issued to commercial shellfish permit holders to be swiped by the wholesale dealer at the point of all primary shellfish transactions to create a carbon copy transaction slip for traceability purposes.

The technology used to create and print these cards is outdated, and as such, DMF can no longer readily produce and issue these cards. DMF is currently working with our partners at the Department of Public Health to transition to a modern solution. However, this transition will take time and will likely not be available for implementation until 2027. Therefore, for 2026, DMF will only require that commercial shellfish fishers present their commercial shellfish permit (paper or electronic copy) and a valid state issued ID (to authenticate) to their wholesale dealer at the point of primary transaction.

For dealers, the current transaction tracking system will suffice in the interim to meet required needs for records. Dealers must take care to ensure that transaction records exist that capture the same information as the transaction slip (electronic records acceptable) and are organized to be easily called up and provided as needed for inspectors and/or to facilitate product recalls, etc.

As additional information becomes available, DMF will provide commercial shellfish fishers and wholesale dealers with information regarding how the Commonwealth intends to replace the shellfish transaction card moving forward.