



## MASSACHUSETTS PRIMARY BUYER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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. 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 are entered electronically 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](http://www.accsp.org).

Federally permitted primary buyers in Massachusetts are considered to be "*federal-reporting*" dealers. All other primary buyers in Massachusetts are considered "*state-reporting*" dealers. **Regardless whether you are a federal-reporting or a state-reporting dealer, all transactions of all species will be electronically submitted to the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) via its web-based application or other software.** 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 to SAFIS. Approved SAFIS dealer reporting applications include the free SAFIS eDR online, SAFIS eDR mobile, and SAFIS file upload, and a third-party software, Trip-Ticket, which is available for purchase.

For information about federal permits and reporting, contact the National Marine Fisheries Service in Gloucester at 978-281-9370 or go to their website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/resources-fishing/greater-atlantic-region-forms-and-applications-summary>. If you will be a state-reporting dealer and have questions about reporting your purchases, 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), which must be included with 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
  - ❖ Catch source (aquaculture, wild-harvest, research, carred)
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.

Further information including primary buyer packets (instructions, FAQ's, etc.) will be emailed 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](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries) and follow the link for Seafood and Bait Dealers.