



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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September 24, 2025

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Reminder to Seafood Dealers that All Lobsters Possessed Must Comply with

1/8-Inch V-Notch Standard

Effective October 1, 2025, all lobsters in the possession of Commonwealth seafood dealers must comply with the $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch v-notch standard. This standard makes unlawful the purchase and possession of any female lobster with a v-notch or indentation in the base of the tail flipper immediately to the right of the center flipper as viewed from the rear of the lobster when the underside of the lobster is facing down that is $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch or greater with or without setal hairs.

On July 1, 2025, the v-notch standard for the state-only Outer Cape Cod Lobster Conservation Management Area (OCCLCMA) was amended from the larger $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch standard to the smaller $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch standard, consistent with all other Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LCMA) along the Atlantic coast (except LCMA1 which has a stricter so-called "zero tolerance" standard). Accordingly, the $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch standard became the most lenient standard in the state and the one that all dealers are to comply with. However, dealers were given three months (through September 30) to sell off any non-conforming product in their possession that may have been lawfully purchased from state-only OCCLCMA fishers before July 1.

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