



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



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September 26, 2025

### Marine Fisheries Advisory

#### **Reminder to Outer Cape Cod Lobster Permit Holders that All Lobsters Possessed Must Comply with 1/8-Inch V-Notch Standard**

This advisory serves as a reminder to commercial lobster permit holders authorized to fish in the Outer Cape Cod Lobster Conservation Management Area (OCCLCMA) that all lobsters possessed must comply with the 1/8" v-notch standard. On July 1, 2025, the v-notch standard for the state-only OCCLCMA was amended from the deeper 1/4-inch standard to the shallower 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).

A similar advisory was recently sent to seafood dealers, reminding them that effective October 1, 2025, all lobsters in the possession of Commonwealth seafood dealers must comply with the 1/8-inch v-notch standard. This standard makes unlawful the purchase and/or 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 1/8-inch or greater with or without setal hairs. Moreover, because this is a possession standard in the Commonwealth, possession of a nonconforming v-notched lobster by any person is unlawful. This applies to dealers who purchase the lobsters from commercial fishermen (so-called primary dealers) as well as any other wholesale and retail dealers (including restaurants) in the re-sale of lobsters, as well as consumers.

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