

Requesting and Accessing Catch Records

If you are a federally reporting fisherman, the state cannot supply copies of VTRs. If you need copies of VTRs, please contact the federal agency that issued your federal permit. For GARFO requests, please email NMFS.GAR.Data.Requests@noaa.gov, call 978-281-9133, or fax 978-281-9161 to request your records.

If you report by paper to the state and need copies to calculate your revenue lost or to verify your tier placement, please review your options below. There are four ways commercial harvesters may obtain their catch reports with options #1 and #2 preferred.

1. The records can be provided electronically. You will need to email dmf.stats@mass.gov and present a photo of yourself and a valid photo ID to verify this against. This does not have to be a state issued ID, just a photo ID. If it is a state issued ID, license number or passport number can be redacted; DMF has access to the other information already (DOB, address). In the body of the e-mail, you should request the records you seek DMF provide. DMF will then return the requested documents via email.
2. DMF can help you set up a SAFIS account in order to pull your own data. Guidance documents found ([here](#) and [here](#)) have explicit instructions on how to do so. Individuals should email dmf.stats@mass.gov with a request for assistance creating the account.
3. Send a notarized request to the DMF Gloucester office (DMF Stats, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930). Once processed, DMF will provide hard copies of the records.
4. Schedule an appointment to pick up copies at the New Bedford or Gloucester DMF field stations. Appointments will need to be made between 9AM and 3PM and will be contactless. This will involve dropping off a valid photo ID and the written request in the vestibule of the office, exiting the office, providing staff time to print the request, and returning to obtain the requested documents. This can be done easily enough with a few hours notice for Statistics staff to process the documents and get them to our field staff.

If you already report electronically to the state, please see the guidance documents ([here](#) and [here](#); also linked <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/commercial-harvest-cares-act-fisheries-relief> under “Accessing your Catch data”) for instructions on how to extract your data from SAFIS.

Further assistance can be requested by emailing dmf.stats@mass.gov or leaving a voicemail for DMF Statistics staff at 978-282-0308 x101. Please include your name, permit number, phone number, and a short message regarding your questions. Calls and emails will be returned within one business day.