



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



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Director

Application for the Massachusetts On-Demand Fixed Gear Grant Program

Applications are due January 31, 2025

As part of the Massachusetts Right Whale and Lobster Fishery Research Program, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF) will provide reimbursement of costs, or a portion of costs, for equipment needed to conduct on-demand (ropeless) fishing activities by Massachusetts commercial fixed gear fishers. Eligible reimbursements shall include, but will not be limited to, the purchase of on-demand gear; the purchase, installation of through-hull transducers for signaling on demand fishing gear; installation, and/or maintenance of satellite communication systems capable of providing information of on-demand gear locations; monthly costs for satellite services (up to four months corresponding to the MA state water closure period); a device to receive on-demand data, and on-demand software application downloads and/or subscriptions. The on-demand gear is the participants to keep. The maximum amount per eligible vessel is up to \$25,000, pending plan approval by MA DMF.

To qualify, you must meet the minimum requirements below:

- Must have held a 2024 Massachusetts Commercial Coastal Lobster Permit and have renewed for 2025,
- Federal or dual permit holders must be covered under an Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) to fish without persistent buoy lines in the Massachusetts Restricted Area (MRA) or South Island Restricted Area (SIRA),
- State only permit holders must obtain a Letter of Authorization from MA DMF to fish without persistent buoy lines in state waters portions of the MRA or SIRA (see website for more information), and
- Must provide a monthly questionnaire response when conducting on-demand fishing.

Preference for awards will be given to vessels that have a history of fishing within the MRA or the SIRA in Statistical Reporting Areas 1 – 8; 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, and 19 in the closed season, prior to the implementation of the closures in 2015 and 2021, respectively. Vessel histories that fished the original MRA closure area will be assessed over a period from 2012-2014; vessel histories that fished the MRA North and SIRA will be assessed over a period from 2018-2020. Permit holders in the Outer Cape Cod Lobster Management Area are not eligible for this program.

To receive funding through this program, applicants must complete all three sections of this application:

- Section 1: Complete all permit holder and vessel information.
- Section 2: Applicants may detail up to \$25,000 in eligible expenses in the Expense Worksheet.
- Section 3: Be sure to read, sign, and date the Certification.

Once all sections are complete, **return the application to the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, postmarked or emailed by January 31, 2025. Completed applications may be emailed to dmf.grants@mass.gov or mailed to 836 S. Rodney French Blvd, New Bedford, MA 02744 (Attn: On-Demand Fixed Gear Research Program).** If you are emailing the completed application, please include "On-Demand Fixed Gear Research Program" and your Massachusetts permit number in the subject line of the email. **It is the applicant's responsibility to check the program website to ensure their application is complete and has been received by the deadline, and if not, contact MA DMF prior to January 31, 2025. Applications emailed or postmarked after January 31, 2025, will not be considered for this program.** For more information on this program, please visit mass.gov/info-details/on-demand-gear-research-program. For questions concerning this application, contact MA DMF at dmf.grants@mass.gov.

SECTION 1: MASSACHUSETTS COMMERCIAL PERMIT HOLDER CONTACT INFORMATION

Please update or provide the information for your authorized representative. Applicants must complete an electronic DocuSign for W9 and EFT forms to receive funding. **These forms and a contract will be emailed to this contact after all eligible recipients have been determined.** Please review this information and make changes where necessary.

Information Needed for Reimbursement	Fill in Your Information in This Column
Permit Holder Name	
Phone Number	
Email	
MA Commercial Fishing Permit Number	

SECTION 2: REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSE WORKSHEET

Complete the worksheet below to detail the allowable expenses for which you are requesting reimbursement. When completing the worksheet, please note:

- DMF must pre-approve expenses for reimbursement.
- Expenses must be documented through records kept with the applicant. Copies of your receipts must be submitted to MA DMF to receive reimbursement.

Description of on-demand gear related purchases or services	Quantity (#, month's service, etc.)	Total Cost
Total Cost:		\$

SECTION 3: CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the information provided in Section 2 is accurate and I will provide documentation of the incurred expenses before submitting for reimbursement to MA DMF. I also affirm that I held a 2024 Commercial Coastal Lobster Permit and have renewed for 2025.

Name: _____
Please type or print the name of authorized individual.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
This application must be signed by a person legally authorized to represent the entity submitting this application.