



**Paul J. Diodati**  
*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

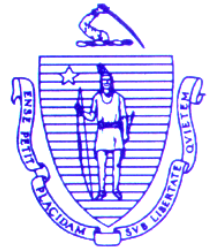
## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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**Deval Patrick**  
*Governor*

**Maeve Vallely Bartlett**  
*Secretary*

**Mary B. Griffin**  
*Commissioner*

December 5, 2014

### **Message from the Director, Paul J. Diodati**

To all recreational lobster harvesters,

When you renew your 2015 permit, you will see a fee increase of \$15; the first increase in 25 years. This increase was allowed by the Legislature and the Governor to fund critically-needed lobster specific research, and has received strong industry and stakeholder support. A similar fee increase was added to commercial lobster permits as well.

For the past decade, we have worked with other states in the region and our federal partners to develop and refine a new survey called "Ventless Trap Survey." It is a systematic approach to monitoring lobster stocks. Contracted lobstermen are deployed to set and haul traps without escape vents, allowing *Marine Fisheries* biologists aboard to collect data on all sizes of lobster and in all habitats. This survey accurately detects changes in lobster abundance and habitat preferences, a critical tool in this time of ocean changes. The survey is a vital component in monitoring and forecasting the abundance of invertebrate species, including lobster.

In recent years, obtaining a continuous funding source for this survey had become problematic; there was no funding provided for the survey in 2013. The increased revenues that are expected from the fee increase will be dedicated to these activities in 2015 and beyond.

Thank you for your continued participation in this fishery and ongoing support. Have a great 2015 lobster year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul J. Diodati". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul J. Diodati, Director