



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**Division of Marine Fisheries**  
(617) 626-1520 | [mass.gov/MarineFisheries](http://mass.gov/MarineFisheries)



Maura T. Healey  
*Governor*

Kimberly Driscoll  
*Lt. Governor*

Rebecca L. Tepper  
*Secretary*

Thomas K. O'Shea  
*Commissioner*

Daniel J. McKiernan  
*Director*

### Vessel Tracking Requirement

All Massachusetts federal lobster trap permit holders for lobster management areas (LMA) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and OC are required to install an Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) approved vessel tracking device onboard their vessel in accordance with Addendum XXIX to Amendment 3 to the American Lobster Fishery Management Plan. Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) administers this requirement for vessels in Massachusetts. DMF requires that vessels under its administration install and activate an ASMFC approved tracking device prior to any lobster fishing trip using trap gear per Massachusetts Code of Regulations 322 7. 11. Once installed, the device must remain powered and transmitting data regardless of location, trip type, gear type, activity, or target species. You are receiving this letter as you have a federally permitted vessel, with a principal port in Massachusetts.

The vessel tracking device must be installed before your first fishing trip using trap gear. Once installed, the device must remain powered on and transmitting at all times regardless of location, trip type, gear type, activity and target species. Vessels with federal Vessel Monitoring Systems must use an ASMFC approved tracking device in addition to their federal VMS unit.

### Permit Holder Requirements

If you intend to fish lobster trap gear complete the following prior to your first trip.

1. Purchase and install an approved device from a vendor listed below.
2. Vessel Tracking Affidavit: Complete and return the attached vessel tracking affidavit certifying that the device has been installed
3. Reimbursement: If you wish to receive a \$1,500 reimbursement to offset the cost of the purchase, please submit the attached vessel tracking application.

### Approved Vessel Tracking Devices Information

| Device Vendor | Approved Device                       | Website                                                                                               | Support Phone  | Support Email Address                                                      |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Viatrax       | Boat Command (ASMFC-airtime included) | <a href="https://boatcommand.com">https://boatcommand.com</a>                                         | (918) 824-1400 | <a href="mailto:support@viatrax.com">support@viatrax.com</a>               |
| Archipelago   | FishVue Lime                          | <a href="https://www.archipelago.ca/fishvuelim-asfmc">https://www.archipelago.ca/fishvuelim-asfmc</a> | (250) 383-4535 | <a href="mailto:TechSupport@archipelago.ca">TechSupport@archipelago.ca</a> |
| Succorfish    | SC2                                   | <a href="https://succorfish.com/contact/">https://succorfish.com/contact/</a>                         | (888) 205-5755 | <a href="mailto:enquiries@succorfish.com">enquiries@succorfish.com</a>     |

**Exceptions**

If you do not intend to fish trap gear aboard your vessel, you may opt out of the vessel tracking requirement. To opt out complete and return the attached Vessel Tracking Affidavit. DMF will issue you a Letter of Authorization.

**Completed Forms:**

The completed can forms can be mailed to:

Vessel Tracking Project MA Division of Marine Fisheries  
836 S Rodney French Blvd,  
New Bedford, MA 01930

You may also email forms to [dmf.tracking@mass.gov](mailto:dmf.tracking@mass.gov)

**Contact DMF**

If you have questions, need to report malfunctioning vessel tracking devices, or need to alert DMF that your tracking device must be powered down for vessel repairs please contact DMF.

To reach DMF vessel tracking call 978-491-6265, or email [dmf.tracking@mass.gov](mailto:dmf.tracking@mass.gov). For more information about this program and vessel tracking requirements, go to [www.mass.gov/vesseltracking](http://www.mass.gov/vesseltracking).



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### Vessel Tracking Affidavit

The vessel tracking device must remain powered and transmitting when the vessel is in the water regardless of landing state, trip type, location fished, or target species. All devices must follow the specifications outlined in Section 3.1 of Addendum XXIX to amendment 3 to American Lobster fishery management plan and Addendum IV to the Jonah crab fishery management plan.

If you have any questions regarding vessel tracking requirements, need to report a malfunctioning device, or need to alert DMF that your tracking device must be powered down for vessel repairs please contact DMF at 978-491-6265 or email [dmf.tracking@mass.gov](mailto:dmf.tracking@mass.gov)

#### Section 1 - Vessel Information

Federal Fishery Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Documentation or Vessel Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section 2- Fishing Intent

- ☐ I certify that I have installed an approved vessel tracking device aboard this vessel and that it is properly functioning to the best of my knowledge.
- ☐ I do not have an approved tracking device aboard my vessel. I do not intend to fish trap gear with my federally permitted vessel in fishing year 2026, which is from May 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027, and am opting out of the vessel tracking program. I understand that before lobster trap gear with my federally permitted vessel I must install an approved tracking device and resubmit this affidavit.

#### Section 3- Device Information

Vessel Tracking Device Vendor: \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Tracking Device Key Code: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section 4- Certification

By signing below, I certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Permit Holder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Holder Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Application for Vessel Tracking Device Reimbursement

Please review and complete Sections 1 and 2 of this form requesting financial assistance for a vessel tracking device. Payments will be issued by ASMFC, so be sure to correct any contact information listed below, as necessary. Please visit [www.mass.gov/info-details/assistance-for-electronic-tracking-devices-federal-lobster-vessels](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/assistance-for-electronic-tracking-devices-federal-lobster-vessels) for updates to subsidy payments for this program.

### Section 1: Permit Holder Contact Information

Please review the contact information below and make corrections where needed. **It is extremely important that this information is correct, especially the address, because this is where stipend checks will be mailed.**

| Line Item                 | Information on File | Make Corrections Here |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Owner Name                |                     |                       |
| Mailing Address           |                     |                       |
| City, State, and Zip Code |                     |                       |
| Phone Number              |                     |                       |
| E-Mail                    |                     |                       |
| Federal Permit Number     |                     |                       |
| Vessel Name               |                     |                       |
| Vessel Number             |                     |                       |

### Section 2: Tax Liability, Payment Disclosure, and Signature

Please be advised that recipients are responsible for the tax consequences of all income received. Therefore, please consult with your tax preparer if you have any further questions regarding the tax implications of these payments. Completing this form is a request for financial assistance for a vessel tracking device for your federally permitted vessel. Requesting funds is a binding agreement to adhere to all the requirements in the enclosed affidavit. **A signed affidavit must be returned prior to receiving funding or your permit will be subject to suspension.**

**EIN or SSN:** \_\_\_\_\_ If you do not want to submit this information through the U.S. Mail, contact the Division of Marine Fisheries at 978-559-1387 between the hours of 9am - 4pm, Mo-Fr.

If EIN is provided above, the Corporation name is: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

You may choose not to accept financial assistance from this program, however, if your vessel is federally permitted for trap-caught American lobster and/or Jonah crab and you land in Massachusetts, you are still subject to this vessel tracking requirement as of May 1, 2023, and **MUST** return the enclosed affidavit.