

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO REPORTING COMPLIANCE IN 2013.

Beginning in 2013, changes to reporting compliance monitoring will be implemented for both MA commercial fishermen (harvesters) and dealers.

Fishermen (harvesters): Currently, MA commercial permit holders, who do not have federal reporting requirements on their federal vessel (VTR's, clam log reports), and report their commercial trips to MA Division of Marine Fisheries, either via paper forms or electronically using the SAFIS eTrips application, are required to submit monthly trip level reports due by the 15th day of the following month. Each month is designated as a reporting period, and submission dates for each reporting period will be monitored and assigned a compliance "grade" depending on when the report was received. If harvesters submit their monthly report more than 30 days after the due date, that reporting period will receive a grade of "late." At the end of the year, if a state reporting harvester is late for more than 25% of their reporting periods, that permit will be considered to have "failed" the reporting requirements for the year, and will be put on probation for the following year. If the permit holder again fails the reporting requirement for the following year, the permit will face revocation or suspension. If a permit is issued mid-year, monthly reports will still be due for those reporting periods prior to permit issue date, but those reporting periods will not be factored into the final year-end compliance grade. Compliance for federal reporting permit holders will be monitored separately by NOAA Fisheries.

Dealers: Currently any MA dealer that buys any marine species landed in MA from a MA commercial harvester, is considered a MA primary buyer, and must report all purchased trips on a weekly basis, from Sunday to Saturday, due by midnight of the following Tuesday. This reporting requirement applies regardless whether the dealer has a federal dealer's permit or not. Each week is designated as a reporting period, and submission dates for each reporting period will be monitored and assigned a compliance "grade" depending on when the report was received. If dealers submit their weekly report more than 7 days after the due date, that reporting period will receive a grade of "late." At the end of the year, if a dealer is late for more than 25% of their reporting periods, that permit will be considered to have "failed" the reporting requirements for the year, and will be put on probation for the following year. If the permit holder again fails the reporting requirement for the following year, the permit will face revocation or suspension. If a permit is issued mid-year, weekly reports will still be due for those reporting periods prior to permit issue date, but those reporting periods will not be factored into the final year-end compliance grade.

Notices will be sent out, either via email or US mail to permit holders that are out of compliance at least quarterly. In addition to a list of permit holders that are late, those that are on probation will be posted on the *MarineFisheries* website.

More information and answers to frequently asked questions, along with reporting forms, maps and other helpful links can be found on the *MarineFisheries* website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.