



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

March 18, 2003

**ATTENTION FISHERMEN HOLDING BOTH A FEDERAL
BLACK SEA BASS AND AMERICAN LOBSTER PERMIT FOR AREA 5**

Dear Permit Holder:

Holders of both a Federal limited access black sea bass and American lobster permit have the option of participating in the Lobster Area 5 Trap Waiver (A5W) program. The A5W program is designed to allow fishermen, with the appropriate changes to their federal permit, to elect in and out of the lobster trap fishery at any time during the fishing year. Fishermen operating under this lobster permit category are not required to affix lobster trap tags to trap gear, are limited to retaining no more than 100 lobsters per day or 500 lobsters for trips of five days or longer, and may not fish with traps in any lobster conservation management area (area) other than Area 5.

NOTE: If revisions to the Federal lobster regulations take effect during the 2003 fishing year, your ability to fish for lobster with trap gear in Areas 3, 4 and 5 may be impacted or nullified depending on your ability to document historical participation based on the final qualification criteria specified in the modified regulations. Any trap tags that designate one or more of Areas 3, 4 and 5 may become invalid before the end of the fishing year and permit holders may be required to purchase new tags and/or return old tags if mandated by the revised

IF YOU START THE FISHING YEAR IN THE A5W PROGRAM If you elected to begin the 2003 fishing year in the A5W program on your permit application, we recommend that you pre-designate lobster conservation management areas for trap fishing on the enclosed LOBSTER MANAGEMENT AREA PRE-DESIGNATION FORM. Voluntary pre-designation of your lobster trap area(s) will allow NMFS to authorize you to receive your lobster trap tags while you are still in the A5W program. This will significantly reduce delays in trap tag processing time if you decide to switch back into the lobster trap fishery later in the fishing year. Once designated, your lobster management area(s) cannot be changed for the remainder of the permit year. Therefore, the area(s) you indicate on the enclosed form will become effective as your lobster trap fishing areas if you cancel the A5W category and elect into the lobster trap fishery at a later date.

IF YOU START THE FISHING YEAR IN THE LOBSTER TRAP FISHERY If you elected to begin the 2003 fishing year in the lobster trap fishery, disregard the enclosed Lobster Management Area Pre-Designation Form. Once designated on your permit, the lobster management areas(s) you elected may not be changed for the remainder of the fishing year. You may however, elect into the A5W program later in the fishing year by contacting NMFS Permit Operations and a permit renewal application will be sent to you. If you have any questions, please contact NMFS Permit Operations at (978) 281-9262.

Sincerely,

Harold C. Mears, Director
State, Federal and Constituent
Programs Office

Enclosure



AREA 5 WAIVER PROGRAM
LOBSTER MANAGEMENT AREA PRE-DESIGNATION FORM

Use this form only if you hold both a Federal American lobster and Federal limited access black sea bass permit and have elected to begin the 2003 fishing year in the Lobster Area 5 Waiver (A5W) program. The area or areas you pre-designate below will be the only ones you will be authorized to fish in for lobster with traps should you cancel your A5W permit and elect into the lobster trap fishery later in the fishing year.

NOTE: This is a voluntary form intended to allow you to receive your lobster trap tags while still in the A5W Program and facilitate a future switch back into the lobster trap fishery. You will still be required to indicate your management area(s) on a subsequent Federal permit renewal application if you decide to elect into the lobster trap fishery at a later date during this fishing year.

Provide the information in the fields below and check off the desired lobster management area(s). Sign and date the bottom of the form and return in the envelope provided.

VESSEL NAME: _____ FEDERAL PERMIT NUMBER: _____

PERMIT HOLDER NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

LOBSTER MANAGEMENT AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR 2003 FISHING YEAR

Area 1 _____ Area 2 (includes 2/3 overlap) _____ Area 3 (includes 2/3 overlap) _____

Area 4 _____ Area 5 _____ Area 6 (NY and CT state permit holders only) _____

Outer Cape Cod Area _____

Signature of Permit Holder or Authorized Representative

Date

Feb. 03



FEDERAL LOBSTER MANAGEMENT AREA LATITUDE/LONGITUDE COORDINATES

The following lobster management areas are established for purposes of implementing the management measures specified in the Code of Federal Regulations §697. Follow listed coordinates down and then across in the order stated. Current Federal lobster management measures can be found at the following NMFS Northeast Region website: <http://www.nero.nmfs.gov/ro/doc/nero.html>

■ **Nearshore Lobster Management Area 1.**

Nearshore Lobster Management Area 1 is defined by the area, including state and Federal waters that are nearshore in the Gulf of Maine, bounded by straight lines connecting the following points, in the order stated, and the coastline of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to the northernmost point on Cape Cod:

<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
A	43/58' N.	67/22' W.	G42/05.5'	N.70/14' W.	
B	43/41' N.	68/00' W.	G142/04.25'	N.70/17.22' W.	
C	43/12' N.	69/00' W.	G242/02.84'	N.70/16.1' W.	
D	42/49' N.	69/40' W.	G342/03.35'	N.70/14.2' W.	
E	42/15.5' N.	69/40' W.			

From point "G3" along the coastline of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and the seaward EEZ boundary back to point A.

■ **Nearshore Lobster Management Area 2.**

Nearshore Lobster Management Area 2 is defined by the area, including state and Federal waters that are nearshore in Southern New England, bounded by straight lines connecting the following points, in the order stated:

<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
H	41/40' N.	70/00' W.	N40/45.5'	N.71/34' W.	
I	41/15' N.	70/00' W.	O41/07'	N.71/43' W.	
J	41/21.5' N.	69/16' W.	P41/06.5'	N.71/47' W.	
K	41/10' N.	69/06.5' W.	Q41/11'30"	N.71/47'15" W.	
L	40/55' N.	68/54' W.	R41/18'30"	N.71/54'30" W.	
M	40/27.5' N.	72/14' W.			

From point "R" along the maritime boundary between Connecticut and Rhode Island to the coastal Connecticut/Rhode Island boundary and then back to point "H" along the Rhode Island and Massachusetts coast.

■ **Area 2/3 Overlap.**

The Area 2/3 Overlap is defined by the area, comprised entirely of Federal waters, bounded by straight lines connecting the following points, in the order stated:

<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
K	41/10' N.	69/06.5' W.	M40/27.5'	N.72/14' W.	
L	40/55' N.	68/54' W.	N40/45.5'	N.71/34' W.	

■ **Offshore Management Area 3.**

Offshore Management Area 3 is defined by the area, comprised entirely of Federal waters, bounded by straight lines connecting the following points, in the order stated:

<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
A	43/58' N.	67/22' W.	U40/12.5'	N.72/48.5' W.	
B	43/41' N.	68/00' W.	V39/50'	N.73/01' W.	
C	43/12' N.	69/00' W.	X38/39.5'	N.73/40' W.	
D	42/49' N.	69/40' W.	Y38/12'	N.73/55' W.	
E	42/15.5' N.	69/40' W.	Z37/12'	N.74/44' W.	
F	42/10' N.	69/56' W.	ZA35/34'	N.74/51' W.	
K	41/10' N.	69/06.5' W.	ZB35/14.5'	N.75/31' W.	

N	40/45.5' N.	71/34' W.	ZC35/14.5'	N.71/24' W.	
M	40/27.5' N.	72/14' W.			

From point "ZC" along the seaward EEZ boundary to point "A".

■ **Nearshore Lobster Management Area 4.**

Nearshore Lobster Management Area 4 is defined by the area, including state and Federal waters that are nearshore in the northern Mid-Atlantic, bounded by straight lines connecting the following points, in the order stated:

<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
M	40/27.5' N.	72/14' W.	P	41/06.5' N.	71/47' W.
N	40/45.5' N.	71/34' W.	S	40/58' N.	72/00' W.
O	41/07' N.	71/43' W.	T	41/00.5' N.	72/00' W.

From Point "T", along the New York/New Jersey coast to Point "W"

W	39/50' N.	74/09' W.
V	39/50' N.	73/01' W.
U	40/12.5' N.	72/48.5' W.

From Point "U" back to Point "M".

■ **Nearshore Lobster Management Area 5.**

Nearshore Lobster Management Area 5 is defined by the area, including state and Federal waters that are nearshore in the southern Mid-Atlantic, bounded by straight lines connecting the following points, in the order stated:

<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
W	39/50' N.	74/09' W.	Z	37/12' N.	74/44' W.
V	39/50' N.	73/01' W.	ZA	35/34' N.	74/51' W.
X	38/39.5' N.	73/40' W.	ZB	35/14.5' N.	75/31' W.
Y	38/12' N.	73/55' W.			

From Point "ZB" along the coasts of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey back to Point "W".

■ **Nearshore Lobster Management Area 6.**

The Nearshore Lobster Management Area 6 is defined by the area, including New York and Connecticut state waters, bounded by straight lines connecting the following points, in the order stated:

<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
T	41/00.5' N.	72/00' W.
S	40/58' N.	72/00' W.
P	41/06.5' N.	71/47' W.
Q	41/11'30" N.	71/47'15" W.
R	41/18'30" N.	71/54'30" W.

From point "R", along the maritime boundary between Connecticut and Rhode Island to the coast; then west along the coast of Connecticut to the western entrance of Long Island Sound; then east along the New York coast of Long Island Sound and back to Point "T".

■ **Nearshore Outer Cape Lobster Management Area.**

Nearshore Outer Cape Lobster Management Area is defined by the area, including state and Federal waters off Cape Cod, bounded by straight lines connecting the following points, in the order stated:

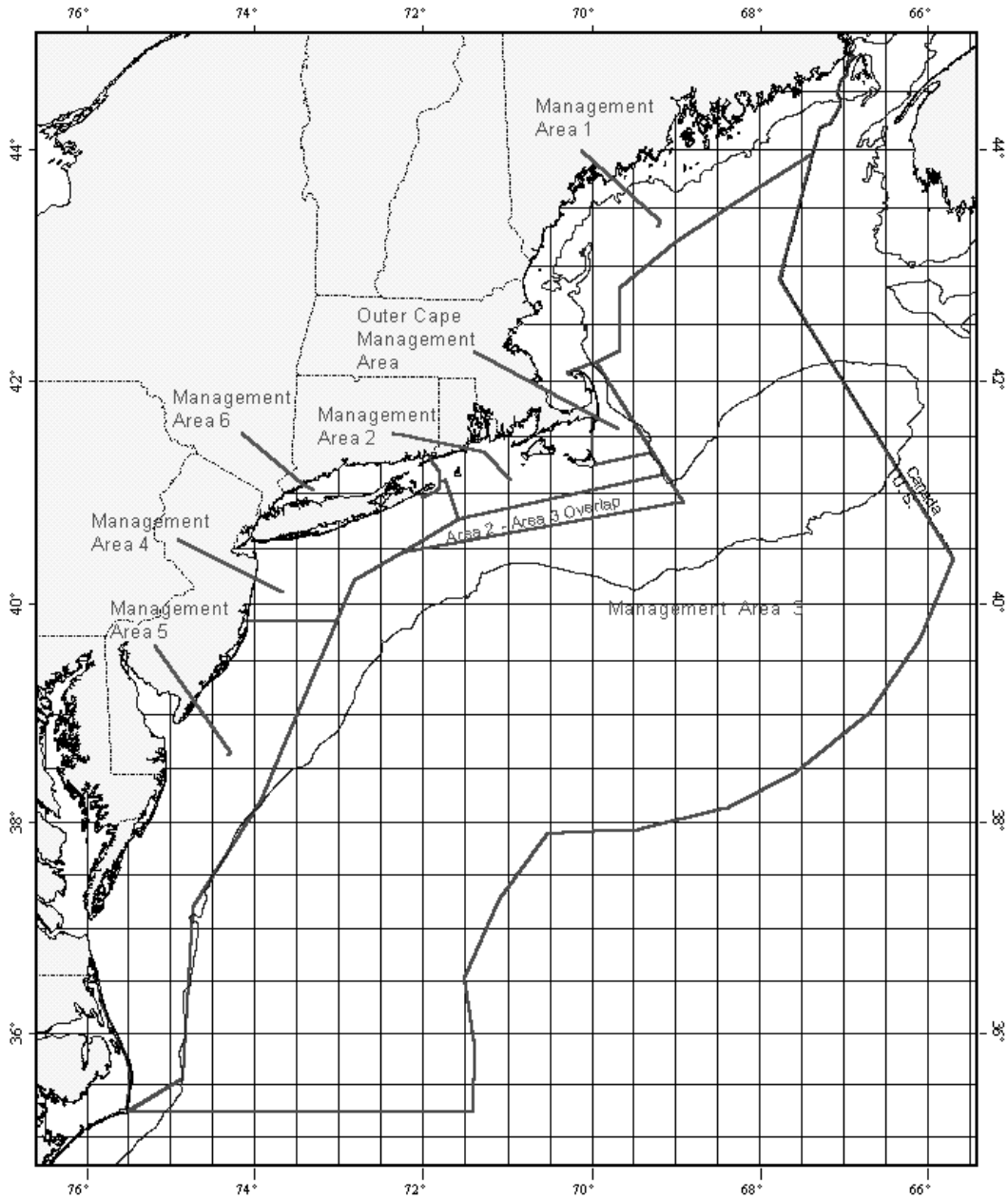
<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
F	42/10' N.	69/56' W.	G	42/02.84' N.	70/16.1' W.
G	42/05.5' N.	70/14' W.	G1	42/03.35' N.	70/14.2' W.
G1	42/04.25' N.	70/17.22' W.			

From Point G3 along the outer Cape Cod coast to Point H

H	41/40' N.	70/00' W.
I	41/15' N.	70/00' W.
J	41/21.5' N.	69/16' W.

From Point "J" back to Point "F".

American Lobster Management Areas



NOAA Fisheries
Northeast Regional Office
Gloucester, MA

11/10/99

**SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
LOBSTER TRAP TAG ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS**

DO NOT USE THE ENCLOSED LOBSTER TRAP TAG FORM TO ORDER TRAP TAGS IF YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE TAGS THROUGH A STATE AGENCY.

Check the state by state listing on pages 1 and 2 of the accompanying permit holder letter for details on how to purchase your trap tags.

I. TO COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED LOBSTER TRAP TAG ORDER FORM, fill out Parts A, B and C of the form and submit to Stoffel Seals, with proper payment, at the address provided on the form.

Part A - Vessel and Permit Holder Information: Complete all fields in this section. It is critical that you accurately enter your Federal vessel permit number.

Part B - Trap Tag Ordering: Indicate in the space provided the number of trap tags you want to purchase. You may purchase trap tags in an amount not to exceed the trap limit authorized for the areas or combination of areas selected, PLUS an additional 10 percent to replace lost or destroyed trap tags (See table on page 4). You are not required to purchase the maximum amount of tags allowable for the area(s) selected.

Example: You have designated one or more of the EEZ Nearshore areas in which to deploy lobster traps. Federal regulations allow you to fish a maximum of 800 traps in the areas designated. You intend to fish the maximum amount, or 800 traps. Therefore, you may order 800 trap tags, plus an additional 10 percent, or 80 tags. This would bring your total tag order to 880 tags.

Unless you purchase your trap tags through your state agency, tags must be purchased directly from the Stoffel Seals Corporation by following the instructions below under part II.

You are urged to make a copy of the blank Lobster Trap Tag Order Form before completing it. This spare copy can be used at a later date if you do not initially order your maximum allocation of trap tags and then decide to order the remaining balance, or for a tag-for-tag exchange (see additional instructions and examples under **SUBSEQUENT TRAP TAG ORDERS**).

Part C - Signature and Date: The Federal lobster permit holder must sign and date the form before submitting. **Unsigned or undated forms will not be processed.**

II. PLACE TRAP TAG ORDER BY SUBMITTING THE ITEMS BELOW TO:

Stoffel Seals Corp. P.O. Box 825 - Dept. 3 Nyack, NY 10960-0825
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- 1. A COMPLETED Lobster Trap Tag Order Form** indicating the number of trap tags you are purchasing, including the additional 10 percent to replace lost or destroyed trap tags, if desired;
- 2. PAYMENT** in the form of **either a cashier's check or money order** payable to Stoffel Seals, **or credit card** authorization which includes the credit card type, card number and expiration date in the fields provided in Part B of the order form. **No personal or corporate checks or cash will be accepted.** Payment amount should include the sales tax for your state of residence if you are not tax exempt;

3. If you are tax exempt, submit a completed state tax exemption form or other relevant documentation. These forms may be obtained from your state's Department of Revenue. Orders without either the sales tax or state sales tax exemption document will not be processed which may substantially delay the processing of your order.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING TRAP TAG ORDERS - CONTACT STOFFEL SEALS

It is estimated that you will receive your trap tags approximately 14 days after your order has been received by Stoffel Seals. For questions concerning orders you have submitted or incorrect shipments, **contact Stoffel Seals at (845) 348-7188**, or you may contact NMFS at (978) 281-9278.

REPORTING LOST OR DESTROYED TRAP TAGS

The vessel owner or operator is accountable for all trap tags. Therefore, vessel owners or operators are required to report all lost or destroyed trap tags, regardless of reason, to NMFS, via fax or letter, within seven days after the tags are known to be lost or destroyed.

To report lost or destroyed trap tags submit a statement of tag loss to NMFS by mail to:

<p>Lobster Trap Tag Replacement Program National Marine Fisheries Service State/Federal Office One Blackburn Drive Gloucester, MA, 01930</p>

Or by fax to: (978) 281-9117

In your statement of tag loss, include a description of the events that may have resulted in the destruction or loss of trap tags, such as: date the tags were first known to be lost or destroyed; last known latitude and longitude coordinates of traps/tags; weather events or other suspected causes of loss; date traps/tags were last seen; and any other information that will facilitate the ability to assess the circumstances of the loss.

REPLACEMENT OF USED, LOST OR DESTROYED TRAP TAGS

**NOTE, IF NMFS HAS A TRAP TAG AGREEMENT WITH YOUR STATE,
FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR STATE
REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF USED, LOST OR DESTROYED TRAP TAGS**

You are not required to replace trap tags that are used, lost or destroyed. However, you may not fish with an untagged trap and, therefore, may not deploy any trap that has lost a tag until a replacement tag is secured to the trap.

1. Replacement for Used Tags: You may replace tags that are affixed to gear that is no longer in use and has been removed from the water, by exchanging them on a tag-for-tag basis (minimum tag orders in multiples of 20 tags only e.g., 20, 40, 60, etc.) as described in the next section, **SUBSEQUENT TRAP TAG ORDERS**.

2. Replacement of Lost or Destroyed Tags NOT Exceeding 10 Percent of Your Total Trap Allocation: Your extra 10 percent allocation of trap tags must be used to replace tags if the number of lost or destroyed tags does not exceed 10 percent of your total trap allocation. You may purchase the number of tags equal to 10 percent of your total trap allocation when making your initial trap tag order using the enclosed Lobster Trap Tag Order Form. No NMFS approval for using your additional allocation for routine losses is needed, but you are still required to report all lost or destroyed tags to NMFS. If you have used your entire 10 percent additional allocation and need to

replace additional tags, you must obtain approval from NMFS in accordance with the replacement provisions described in #3 below.

3. Replacement of Lost or Destroyed Tags Exceeding 10 Percent of Your Total Trap Allocation: If the number of lost or destroyed tags exceeds 10 percent of your total trap allocation, indicate in your statement of tag loss or destruction, the number of lost or destroyed trap tags you intend to replace (minimum tag orders in multiples of 20 tags only e.g., 20, 40, 60, etc.). Your statement regarding lost or destroyed tags and request for replacement tags will be reviewed by NMFS and if you provide sufficient credible documentation of the loss or destruction of tags, NMFS will approve your replacement request. Do not include payment for tags when submitting your request to NMFS. You will be notified as to whether or not your request is approved. Upon approval, a Lobster Trap Tag Replacement Authorization Form will be sent to you. Complete the Lobster Trap Tag Replacement Authorization Form and submit, along with payment for the replacement tags (in multiples of 20 tags only e.g., 20, 40, 60, etc.), directly to Stoffel Seals Corporation. Payment should be sent to Stoffel Seals only after you have received approval and a Lobster Trap Tag Replacement Authorization Form from NMFS.

4. State-Specific Replacement Tag Information: Permit holders must purchase replacement tags through the agency that they purchased their initial tag allocation from. This also applies to subsequent tag orders as described in the next section.

SUBSEQUENT TRAP TAG ORDERS

Additional trap tag orders may be placed after receiving your initial tag order under two circumstances by using the Lobster Trap Tag Order Form: 1) to purchase the balance of your trap tag allocation if you did not order your entire allocation of trap tags, including the extra 10 percent, when you initially ordered your tags, or 2) when a tag-for-tag exchange is desired to replace used tags. Include payment consistent with Part II, # 2 of these instructions.

1. Orders to Purchase the Balance of Your Tag Allocation: Permit holders are not obligated to purchase the total allowable allocation of trap tags for the areas that they designate for trap fishing, but must order enough tags for the number of traps intended to be deployed. In the event that you do not order the total amount of tags you are allowed now, you may order the remaining tags at a later date by using the Lobster Trap Tag Order Form and submitting it directly to Stoffel Seals.

Example: You designate a Nearshore Area for fishing, such as Area 1, entitling you to a maximum allowable purchase of 880 trap tags. You intend to fish only 500 traps and decide to order only enough tags for those traps. You decide at a later date during the same fishing year to purchase the remaining balance of your allocation, or 380 tags (880-500=380). You then complete and submit to Stoffel Seals your request for the balance of your trap tag allocation using the copy of the Lobster Trap Tag Order Form you made before submitting your initial order, along with payment.

2. Orders for a Tag-for-Tag Exchange: You may remove the tags from traps that have been taken out of the water, return these tags, along with a completed lobster trap tag order form and payment, to Stoffel Seals, and receive an equal amount of tags in return. Tags may be replaced in this manner in multiples of 20 tags only (e.g., 20, 40, 60, etc.).

Example: Your vessel fishes 800 traps in EEZ Area 2. You decide to replace 40 traps that are tagged and deployed for lobster fishing in Area 2 with new traps that are stacked on the wharf. You must retrieve the old traps and remove the tags on land. Submit the 40 used tags from the old traps to Stoffel Seals and request a tag-for-tag exchange, along with payment. Forty identical tags will be sent to you from Stoffel Seals which you must affix to the new traps before they are deployed for lobster fishing.

3. How to Purchase your Trap Tag Balance or Exchange Trap Tags: Use the enclosed Lobster Trap Tag Order Form for subsequent trap tag orders. Fill out Parts A, B and C, submit your form along with payment (including either state tax or a state tax exemption form) to Stoffel Seals Corporation in accordance with the instructions on the form. Please refer to State-Specific Replacement Tag Information in the previous section regarding requirements for specific state permit holders.

TRAP LIMITS AND TAG ALLOCATIONS

TRAP LIMITS IN AREAS 3, 4 AND 5 MAY CHANGE IF NEW FEDERAL LOBSTER REGULATIONS BECOME EFFECTIVE DURING THE 2003 FISHING YEAR.

The table below provides a simple breakdown of the trap limits, along with the maximum number of trap tags that may be purchased with respect to the management areas designated for trap fishing by the permit holder.

AREA DESIGNATION	TRAP LIMIT	TRAP TAGS
EEZ Nearshore Only: Designation of one or more of the following EEZ Nearshore Management Areas: Area 1, 2 (includes Area 2/3 Overlap), 4, 5, Outer Cape Management Area.	Vessels may not fish more than 800 lobster traps.	880 (maximum number of traps is 800 plus 10% routine loss allocation).
EEZ Nearshore and EEZ Offshore: Designation of one or more of the following EEZ Nearshore Management Areas: Area 1, 2 (includes Area 2/3 Overlap), 4, 5, Outer Cape Management Area; AND EEZ Offshore Management Area 3 (also includes Area 2/3 Overlap).	Vessels may not fish more than 800 lobster traps.	880 (maximum number of traps is 800 plus 10% routine loss allocation).
EEZ Offshore Only: Designation of EEZ Offshore Management Area 3 only (includes Area 2/3 Overlap).	Vessels may not fish more than 1,800 lobster traps.	1,980 (maximum number of traps is 1,800 plus 10% routine loss allocation).
Nearshore Area 6 Only: Designation of Area 6 only which occurs entirely in the state waters of Connecticut and New York. (For New York and Connecticut state license holders only.)	Vessels are restricted to the applicable state trap limits.	All traps must be tagged even if in state waters only. Number of trap tags is based on state trap limit and associated regulations.
Nearshore Area 6 and <u>any</u> EEZ Area: Designation of Area 6 AND any other Management Areas. (Area 6 is comprised entirely of Connecticut and New York state waters, therefore this option may be selected only by those with either a New York or Connecticut state license.)	Vessels are limited to the most restrictive of EEZ or state trap limits.	All traps must be tagged even if in state waters only. Number of trap tags is based on more restrictive of either Federal or state trap limits.

2003 Lobster Trap Tag Order Form

1. If your Federal lobster permit address is in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts; or Maine and you possess a Maine state lobster license; or New York and you elect Area 6 only, purchase your trap tags through your state agency and do not use this form.
2. If you have a Federal lobster permit and a state of New Hampshire lobster license, you have the option of purchasing your trap tags through either NMFS or the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game.
3. If you are not required to purchase trap tags through your state agency, and you have a valid 2003 Federal lobster trap permit, please complete Parts A, B, and C of this form.
4. **Send this completed form and payment directly to:**
Stoffel Seals Corporation, P.O. Box 825 - Dept. 3, Nyack, NY 10960-0825, tel. (845) 348-7188.
5. Make a copy of this blank form for use when placing subsequent tag orders.
6. If you have any questions, please call the NMFS Northeast Regional Office information line at **(978) 281-9278**.

Name _____ **PLEASE PRINT** **Part A**

P.O. Box / Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone Number () _____

Vessel Name _____ Federal Permit # _____

Vessel Documentation # or State Registration # _____

PLEASE INDICATE BELOW THE NUMBER OF TRAP TAGS YOU WISH TO PURCHASE:

Part B

Note: Lobster management area(s) will be based on the trap gear area(s) designated on your 2003 Federal permit renewal application. To order your tags through NMFS, indicate the number of trap tags you wish to purchase in the space provided below. For the 2003 fishing year, the maximum number of tags that may be purchased for any or all EEZ Nearshore Areas is 880, while the maximum number of tags that may be purchased if you elect to fish only in EEZ Offshore Area 3 is 1,980. Area 6 is entirely New York and Connecticut state waters. Trap tag allocations for this area are contingent upon state trap limits. If you are a New York state license holder who selects Area 6 in combination with any other management area, you must abide by the more restrictive of either state or EEZ trap limits and purchase the appropriate amount of tags using this form. Potential revisions to Federal regulations may limit future access to EEZ management areas 3, 4 and 5. Therefore, any trap tags purchased for the 2003 fishing year may become invalid before the end of the fishing year if these new rules are implemented. Permit holders may be required to purchase new tags and return old tags if mandated by future rulemaking actions.

Total Number of Federal Trap Tags Requested: _____ X \$0.14 per tag = \$ _____

* State Tax = \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed /Authorized: \$ _____

Please indicate method of payment: _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Certified Check/ Money Order

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Please make cashier's checks or money orders payable to: Stoffel Seals Corporation. No cash, or personal or corporate checks will be accepted. *If tax exempt, please complete and return a tax exemption form for your state of residence. Orders received without a tax exemption certificate, or applicable sales tax, will not be processed.

Signature _____

Part C

Date _____

I certify that the information provided on this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge, and made in good faith. Making a false statement on this form is punishable by law (18 U.S.C. 1001). Forms that are not signed and dated will not be processed.

This collection is authorized under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et. seq.). The information will be used in the management of the American lobster fishery. One of the regulatory steps taken by NMFS to carry out its conservation and management objectives is limiting fishing vessel effort. The purpose and use of the lobster trap tagging program is to provide identification of trap ownership, and to limit the number of traps for those vessels that fish traps by issuing lobster trap tags, with a maximum number of tags for each vessel. This assures consistency throughout the fleet of affected vessels. In addition, it allows NMFS to determine the number of traps in use in the fishery to better monitor fishing effort in the future.

Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated at 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The public burden for using this form to order additional trap tags is estimated at 2 minutes. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Patricia Kurkul, Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.