



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

March 20, 2000

To Whom it May Concern:

The documents that follow this letter were mailed to Federal American lobster limited access permit holders (Federal lobster permit holders) on Friday, March 17, 2000. These documents describe the procedures necessary for declaring lobster conservation management areas and ordering Federal lobster trap tags, as required under the new Federal lobster regulations published in the Federal Register on December 6, 1999 (50 CFR 68228).

One of the subject documents, Attention Holders of Both a Federal Lobster Permit and a Massachusetts State Lobster License, was sent only to those Federal lobster permit holders who also hold a Massachusetts (MA) lobster license. This letter describes the agreement between NMFS and the MA Division of Marine Fisheries concerning state and Federally-issued lobster trap tags.

The other four documents were mailed to all Federal lobster permit holders, including those with a MA state lobster license. These four documents include: Special Instructions for Federal Limited Access Lobster Permit Holders for Area Designation and Trap Tags, explaining the current trap limits, area designation and trap tag requirements; Federal Lobster Management Area Latitude and Longitude Coordinates, delineating the lobster conservation management areas; Lobster Management Area Designation and Trap Tag Program Application Form, for use in designating lobster conservation management areas and ordering trap tags; and Instructions for Lobster Management Area Designation and Trap Tag Program Application Form.

Federal lobster permit holders may contact the NMFS Information Line at (978) 281-9278 for general information or assistance with questions specific to trap limits, area designation requirements or the lobster trap tag program.





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

March 17, 2000

ATTENTION
HOLDERS OF BOTH A FEDERAL LOBSTER PERMIT AND A
MASSACHUSETTS STATE LOBSTER LICENSE

Dear Permit Holder:

This is to inform you that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has entered into an agreement with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) regarding the implementation of the lobster trap tag program for fishing year 2000.

Pursuant to this agreement, individuals who hold both a Massachusetts lobster license and a Federal limited access lobster permit need only to purchase one trap tag for each trap deployed in either state or Federal waters. Under this agreement between DMF and NMFS, NMFS will recognize state-issued trap tags as valid in the EEZ portion of the lobster management areas you designate to fish in for the 2000 fishing season. Therefore, you are not required to purchase additional Federal trap tags for use in the EEZ if you have already purchased tags from DMF for the 2000 fishing season.

If you have not yet purchased your trap tags for the 2000 fishing season, you have the option of purchasing your tags through either DMF or NMFS. NMFS-issued tags will also be recognized as valid in Massachusetts state waters as long as you possess a valid Massachusetts state lobster license.

Regardless of whether you purchase your tags through DMF or NMFS, all Federal lobster permit holders who fish with trap gear or who have selected traps as a gear type are required to designate the lobster management areas they intend to fish in by completing Parts A and C of the enclosed Lobster Management Area Designation and Trap Tag Order Form. Your fishing year 2000 Federal lobster permit will not be issued until your area designation information is received by NMFS.

If you have already purchased trap tags from DMF for the 2000 fishing season, you may have also received, in addition to the 800 state waters trap tags issued by DMF, 200 EEZ tags for use in the Federal waters portions of EEZ Nearshore Area 2. Please note that effective May 1, 2000, no more than 800 traps may be fished in any EEZ Nearshore Management Area (including Area 2). Therefore, the additional 200 EEZ tags issued by DMF are not valid for use after May 1, 2000. The remaining



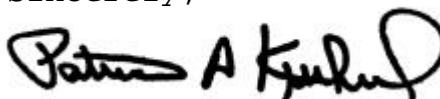
800 tags you have been issued by DMF will be recognized as valid in Federal waters if your vessel has a valid Federal lobster permit.

All trap tag orders, whether made through DMF or NMFS, must be sent, along with payment, directly to Stoffel Seals. If you wish to purchase tags through NMFS at \$0.12 per tag, please complete the enclosed Lobster Management Area Designation and Trap Tag Order Form according to the enclosed instructions.

For further questions regarding lobster management area designation, Federal trap limits, or the trap tag program, please call the NMFS information line at (978) 281-9278.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Kurkul". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Patricia A. Kurkul, Administrator
Northeast Region

cc: Jim Fair, Assistant Director, MA DMF



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

March 31, 2000

ATTENTION
FEDERAL LOBSTER PERMIT HOLDERS
RESIDING IN MAINE

Dear Permit Holder:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has entered into an agreement with the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) regarding the lobster trap tag program for fishing year 2000. Pursuant to this agreement, individuals who hold both a Maine lobster license and own a vessel with a Federal limited access lobster permit authorized for trap gear need to purchase only one trap tag for each trap deployed in either state or Federal waters.

NMFS will recognize state-issued trap tags as valid in the EEZ portion of the Lobster Management Areas you designate to fish in for the 2000 fishing season. Therefore, you are not required to purchase Federal trap tags if you have already purchased tags from DMR.

If you have both a Maine lobster license and a Federal lobster permit and have not yet purchased trap tags for the 2000 fishing season, you must purchase these tags through DMR. If you have a Federal lobster permit only, you are required to purchase your tags through NMFS using the Lobster Management Area Designation and Trap Tag Order Form that was previously sent to you.

If you have already purchased your trap tags or plan to purchase them through DMR, you are still required to complete the area designation portion (section A) of the Lobster Management Area Designation and Trap Tag Order Form, sign the bottom (part C) and return it to NMFS. Your Federal lobster permit will not be renewed for 2000 until this information is received.

For further questions regarding lobster management area designation, Federal trap limits, or the trap tag program, please call the NMFS information line at (978) 281-9278.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia A. Kurkul".

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator





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

**ATTENTION
FEDERAL LOBSTER PERMIT HOLDERS
RESIDING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Dear Permit Holder:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has entered into an agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game (NHF&G) regarding the lobster trap tag program for fishing year 2000. Pursuant to this agreement, individuals who hold both a New Hampshire lobster license and own a vessel with a Federal limited access lobster permit authorized for trap gear need to purchase only one trap tag for each trap deployed in either state or Federal waters. The tags may be purchased through either NHF&G or NMFS.

If you purchase the trap tags through NHF&G, you are still required to complete the area designation portion (section A) of the Lobster Management Area Designation and Trap Tag Order Form, sign the bottom (part C) and return it to NMFS. Your Federal lobster permit will not be renewed for 2000 until this information is received.

If you have a Federal lobster permit only, you are required to purchase your tags through NMFS using the Lobster Management Area Designation and Trap Tag Order Form that was previously sent to you.

Effective May 1, 2000, the trap limit in the EEZ portions of the Nearshore Management Areas (e.g., Area 1) will be 800. The trap limit for vessels that designate to fish only in the Offshore Management Areas (Area 3, or Area 3 and the 2/3 overlap) will be 1,800. Federal permit holders are required to abide by the more restrictive of either state or Federal trap limits. For information on state lobster trap limits, contact NHF&G at (603) 868-1095.

For further questions regarding lobster management area designation, Federal trap limits, or the trap tag program, please call the NMFS information line at (978) 281-9278.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator





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

May 23, 2000

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter pertains to all Federal lobster permit holders who have Maine state lobster licenses.

The Federal lobster trap limit in Area 1 is 800 and Federal lobster permit holders designating this area may receive 800 trap tags plus an additional 10% to cover routine trap losses. In some cases, the Federal trap limit may be more than your Maine state trap allocation. Upon request, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will allow Federal permit holders who have Maine state trap allocations which are lower than the Federal limit, to purchase an additional number of lobster trap tags up to the Federal limit, while taking into account the number of trap tags already issued by the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR). NMFS will confirm state tag allocations with DMR.

For example, if your Maine state lobster trap allocation is 400 traps and you have previously designated Area 1 on the Federal lobster area designation form, you may be eligible to purchase the remaining balance of trap tags up to the Federal limit, or in the case of this example, you may purchase an additional 440 trap tags. This assumes that you are also eligible to receive an additional 40 tags from the state to cover routine losses.

Please note that the additional 10% allocation of Federal trap tags may be used only to replace tags lost during the current Federal fishing year. Also, in accordance with an agreement between NMFS and DMR, trap tags issued by NMFS are not valid in Maine state waters.

Regardless of the amount of trap tags purchased, Federal lobster regulations require Federal permit holders to abide by the more restrictive of either state or Federal trap limits. The mere issuance of a Federal trap tag does not necessarily override any enforceable state law that may be applicable to a Federal lobster permit holder with a Maine lobster license. Therefore, it is recommended that you contact DMR for further clarification on state lobster regulations and trap limits.

To purchase additional trap tags up to the Federal limit: 1. Complete the enclosed lobster area designation and trap tag order form and return the white copy, along with payment, to Stoffel Seals at the address provided on the form. 2. Complete the bottom portion of this letter. Sign and date in the space provided. Submit this letter and the yellow copy of the trap tag order form to NMFS in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.

Federal Vessel Permit #: _____ Maine State Lobster Zone (A-G): _____

Federal Lobster Trap Tag Limit: _____ 880 _____

Your Maximum Maine State Trap Tag Allocation: _____
(include additional tags allowed for routine losses)

Remaining Balance (subtract state allocation from Federal limit): _____

Signature of Federal Permit Holder: _____ 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).

Enclosure





INSTRUCTIONS FOR DESIGNATING LOBSTER MANAGEMENT AREAS AND ORDERING TRAP TAGS

These instructions are intended to assist you in completing the enclosed form for designating lobster management areas and ordering and purchasing lobster trap tags for the 2000 fishing year (May 1, 2000 - April 30, 2001). **All Federal limited access lobster permit holders who harvest lobsters with traps must complete Parts A, B and C of the form** (see exceptions below). Additional information on trap limits, tag allocations, state/Federal trap tag agreements, and the processes for replacement and reordering of trap tags is also provided.

All lobster traps in Federal waters must be affixed with a Fishing Year 2000 trap tag by June 1, 2000.

AREA DESIGNATION AND TAG ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

I. Fill out the top page of the enclosed form. Press down firmly so that the two attached carbon copy versions of the form are legible upon completion. Instructions are also provided on the form for your convenience.

Part A - Area Designation: Clearly print the Federal lobster permit holder's name, address, telephone number, vessel name, state or Federal vessel documentation number, and Federal vessel permit number in the spaces provided.

Designate the lobster management area(s) you intend to fish in during the 2000 fishing year by checking the appropriate areas shown in bold in Part A of the form. Your lobster fishing with trap gear will be restricted to the areas you designate in this section of the form for the remainder of the 2000 fishing year.

If you are a Federal lobster permit holder also holding either a Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut or New York lobster license, and purchase tags from your state agency, you are still required to complete Parts A and C of the enclosed form and submit it to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Your 2000 lobster permit cannot be issued until your area designation information is received by NMFS.

Note to non-trap gear fishermen: If you do not intend to fish with traps and trap gear (gear code 800) is not identified as a gear on the lobster permit category of your Federal permit or renewal application, do not complete this form. However, if trap gear (gear code 800) is identified on the lobster category of your Federal permit, **your Federal limited access lobster permit will not be renewed** unless you select at least one management area on this form, regardless of whether you intend to fish for lobster with traps, or notify NMFS in writing that you wish to remove trap gear on your permit. If applicable, you may harvest lobster outside of your designated trap gear areas with non-trap gear, but must abide by the most restrictive measures in effect for the area(s) selected.

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 pages 3 and 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 II.

You are urged to make a copy of the blank Lobster Area Designation and Trap Tag Program Application 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 elect for a tag-for-tag exchange (see additional instructions and examples under "SUBSEQUENT TRAP TAG ORDERS"). When using this form for ordering the remaining balance of your allocation or when requesting a tag-for-tag exchange, it is not necessary to complete the area designation portion of the form. A copy of the form should be sent directly to Stoffel Seals Corp. and carbon copies are not necessary when the form is used for a tag exchange or when ordering the remaining balance of your tag allocation.

Part C - Signature and Date: The Federal lobster permit holder must sign and date the form before submitting. Forms that are unsigned or undated 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

1. **White copy** of the enclosed Lobster Management Area Designation and Tag Program Application 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 that do not provide either the sales tax or state sales tax exemption document will not be processed and may substantially delay the processing of your trap tag order.

It is estimated that you will receive your trap tags approximately 10-14 days after your order has been received by Stoffel Seals. If you have questions concerning orders you have submitted or incorrect shipments, **contact Stoffel Seals at (914) 348-7188.**

III. Submit Information to NMFS. Submit the **yellow copy** of the form to NMFS, Lobster Trap Tag Program, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Please ensure that all the information has been copied clearly onto the form. The trap gear areas you designate will appear on your 2000 Federal lobster permit. If you have any questions, please contact the NMFS Lobster Information Line at (978) 281-9278.

IV. Retain the pink copy of the form for your records.

TRAP LIMITS AND TAG ALLOCATIONS

Clarification on the Area 2/3 Overlap:

If you select either EEZ Nearshore Area 2 or EEZ Offshore Area 3, or both, you automatically have access to the Area 2/3 Overlap.

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 (including 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 (including 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 (including 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 any EEZ Area: Designation of Area 6 (entirely Connecticut and New York state waters) AND any other Management Areas. (For New York and Connecticut state license holders only.)	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.

STATE-FEDERAL TRAP TAG AGREEMENTS

This section pertains to those holding state lobster licenses from the states indicated below. If you have a Federal permit only, you must purchase trap tags using the enclosed Federal tag order form.

Massachusetts

Federal lobster permit holders with Massachusetts lobster licenses have the option of purchasing trap tags from either the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF) or NMFS. If you wish to purchase trap tags through

NMFS, please do so using the enclosed tag order form. If you have already purchased trap tags from MA DMF for the 2000 fishing year, you are not required to purchase additional Federal tags. Your state-issued tags will be recognized as valid in Federal waters. However, if you received 200 "EEZ" tags from MA DMF, these tags will be invalid beginning May 1, 2000. **Even if you purchase your trap tags through MA DMF, you must complete Parts A and C of the enclosed form and remit to NMFS in order to have your 2000 permit issued.**

Maine

If you have a Federal lobster permit and a state of Maine lobster license you may purchase your lobster trap tags through the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and are not required to purchase Federal trap tags. NMFS will recognize tags issued by the State of Maine as valid in Federal waters. **However, you are still required to complete the area designation portion of the Federal tag form and return it to NMFS so that your Federal lobster permit can be renewed.**

Upon request, NMFS will allow Federal lobster permit holders with Maine state trap allocations lower than the Federal trap limit to purchase an additional number of lobster trap tags up to the Federal limit, while taking into account the number of tags already issued by DMR. This information will be confirmed with DMR before the issuance of Federal tags is authorized. Regardless of the amount of additional tags purchased, Federal lobster regulations require Federal permit holders to abide by the more restrictive of either state or Federal trap limits. The mere issuance of Federal trap tags does not necessarily override any enforceable state law that may be applicable to a Federal lobster permit holder with a Maine lobster license. Therefore, it is recommended that you contact DMR for further details.

New Hampshire

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. Tags purchased through the State will satisfy the Federal trap tagging requirements. **Even if you purchase your tags through the State, you are still required to complete the area designation portion of the Federal tag form and return it to NMFS so that your Federal lobster permit can be renewed.**

Connecticut or New York

Federal lobster permit holders with either a New York or Connecticut lobster license and electing to fish in Area 6 only, are required to purchase their trap tags from their respective state agency. If you designate Area 6 and any other management area, you must purchase your trap tags through NMFS using the enclosed form. **Even if you purchase your trap tags through your state agency, you must complete Parts A and C of the Federal tag form and remit to NMFS in order to have your 2000 permit issued.**

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:

**Lobster Trap Tag Replacement Program
National Marine Fisheries Service**

State/Federal Office
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA, 01930

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 our ability to assess the circumstances of the loss.

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 Area Designation and Trap Tag Application 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. Please 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 of your trap tag replacement request for tags exceeding 10 percent of your total trap allocation, a Lobster Trap Tag Replacement Authorization Form will be sent to you. Complete the Lobster Trap Tag Replacement Authorization Form and submit the completed form, 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: Federal lobster permit holders with either a Massachusetts or New Hampshire lobster license may purchase

replacement tags through either the state or NMFS. Federal lobster permit holders with a Connecticut or New York license who designate Area 6 only must purchase replacement tags in accordance with state regulations. New York or Connecticut lobster license holders who designate areas other than, or in addition to, Area 6 must purchase replacement tags through NMFS. Federal permit holders with a Maine state lobster license must purchase replacement tags through Maine DMR.

Regardless of the agency you purchase the replacement tags from, you must report all tag losses to NMFS as previously described. Federal permit holders from all other states must purchase their replacement tags through NMFS according to the procedures described in this instruction packet. This part also applies to subsequent tag orders as described in the next section.

SUBSEQUENT TRAP TAG ORDERS

Trap tag orders may be placed after receiving your initial tag order under two circumstances by using the Lobster Area Designation and Trap Tag Application 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.

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, during this initial trap tag order, the total amount of tags you are allowed, you may order the remaining tags at a later date by using the Lobster Area Designation and Trap Tag Application 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 Area Designation and Trap Tag Application Form you made before submitting your initial order.

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 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 1,800 traps in EEZ Offshore Area 3. You decide to replace 40 traps that are tagged and deployed for lobster fishing in Area 3, 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. 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 Area Designation and Trap Tag Application Form for subsequent trap tag orders. Fill out the name, address, telephone, vessel and permit information section of Part A, complete Parts 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. It

is not necessary to re-designate your management areas under these circumstances, since your original area designations may not be changed until the 2001 fishing year which begins on May 1, 2001. Please refer to 4. State-Specific Replacement Tag Information in the previous section regarding requirements for specific state permit holders.

For questions regarding trap limits, area designation, or the lobster trap tag program, please contact the **NMFS information line at (978) 281-9278** or the NMFS Northeast Region home page at www.nero.nmfs.gov/ro/doc/nero.html.

Revised 5/30/00

Lobster Management Area Designation & Tag Program Application Form



1. Please complete Parts A, B and C of this form if your vessel is endorsed to fish for lobster with traps during the 2000 fishing year. If you are not ordering tags through NMFS, complete Parts A and C only.
2. Return the white copy of this form, state tax exemption form if applicable, and trap tag payment to:
Stoffel Seals Corporation, P.O. Box 825 - Dept. 3, Nyack, NY 10960-0825, tel. (914) 348-7188.
3. Return the yellow copy of this form to: **NMFS Lobster Trap Tag Program, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298**
4. Retain the pink copy for your records. Initial tag orders will be shipped to you directly from the tag manufacturer.
5. Make a copy of this blank form for use when placing subsequent tag orders. No carbon copies are necessary for subsequent 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 CHECK ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING LOBSTER MANAGEMENT AREAS WHERE YOU WILL FISH LOBSTER TRAPS (SEE ATTACHED CHART):		
<u>Nearshore Management Areas*</u>: Area 1 - _____ Area 2 (including Area 2/3 Overlap) ***- _____		
Area 4 - _____ Area 5 - _____ Area 6** - _____ Outer Cape Area - _____		
<u>EEZ Offshore Management Areas*</u>: Area 3 (including Area 2/3 Overlap) ***- _____		
<p>*You may select one or more of the above Lobster Management Areas. Once you have selected the areas, you are limited to fishing in only these areas during the 2000 fishing year (May 1, 2000-April 30, 2001). The maximum trap allocation for the EEZ Nearshore Areas is 800, while the maximum amount of traps allowable in the EEZ Offshore Areas is 1,800.</p> <p>**Area 6 is entirely state waters and is not an EEZ management area. You must have a New York or Connecticut state lobster license to fish in Area 6. Trap allocations for this area are contingent upon state regulations. If Area 6 is selected in combination with any other area you must abide by the more restrictive of state or Federal trap limits.</p> <p>***If you select either EEZ Nearshore Area 2 or EEZ Offshore Area 3, you also have access to the Area 2/3 Overlap. If you select EEZ Offshore Area 3 and do not select any Nearshore Areas, you may fish a maximum of 1,800 traps. If you select any EEZ Nearshore Areas, or Area 3 in combination with one or more of the Nearshore Areas, you are limited to 800 traps.</p>		

PLEASE INDICATE BELOW THE NUMBER OF TRAP TAGS YOU WISH TO PURCHASE:	Part B
<p>Note: You are not required to complete this section if you have been given the option of ordering tags from a state agency that has entered into a trap tag agreement with NMFS. To order your tags through NMFS, indicate the number of trap tags you wish to purchase in the space provided below. For the 2000 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 for 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 select Area 6 only, you must purchase tags from your state agency. If you select 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.</p>	
Total Number of Federal Trap Tags Requested: _____ X \$0.12 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.



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.

From Point "S", boundary follows the 3 mile limit of New York as it curves around Montauk Point to Point "P"

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:

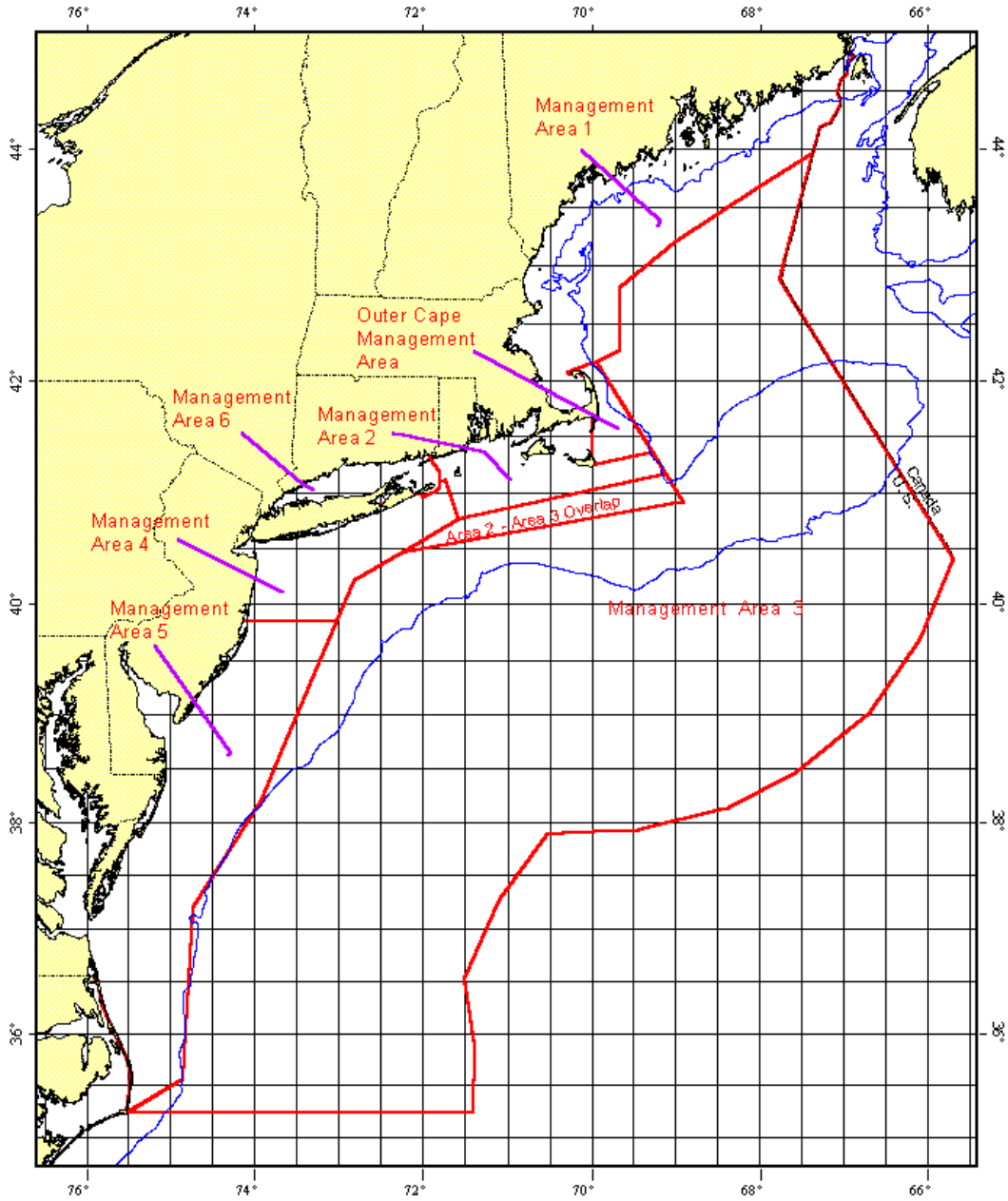
<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Point</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
F	42°10' N.	69°56' W.	G	42°02.84' N.	70°16.1' W.
G	42°05.5' N.	70°14' W.	G3	42°03.35' N.	70°14.2' W.
G1	42°04.25' N.	70°17.22' W.			

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