



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:  
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(978) 675-2162

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov>

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## **Federal Lobster Permit Holders**

Guidance for Lobster Trap Fishermen

Lobster Trap Tag Ordering Instructions

*2015 Fishing Year (May 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016)*

If you intend to fish for lobsters with trap gear during the 2015 fishing year, you must renew your Federal lobster permit and order lobster trap tags. Your permit renewal application will be sent separately. This guide outlines how to order your trap tags. In some cases, you may be required to order trap tags through your state fisheries agency, as explained below. There is a new trap tag vendor for 2015, so some information has changed since the 2014 ordering instructions.

To fish with lobster traps, you must select trap gear (gear code 800) and at least one lobster management area on your Federal permit renewal application. If you are eligible to use the enclosed form for ordering trap tags, we will forward the lobster management areas you select on your Federal permit renewal application to Cambridge Security Seals (CSS) so they appear on your Fishing Year 2015 trap tags. Only tags purchased through CSS will be considered valid trap tags and you may no longer order from the previous vendor, TydenBrooks. If you purchase your trap tags through a state agency, you must choose the same lobster management areas on the state's trap tag order forms that you have chosen on your Federal permit renewal application. You must attach a 2015 trap tag to each fished lobster trap. **The deadline for attaching the 2015 trap tags to your lobster traps is June 1, 2015.**

<b><i>Who Must Use the Trap Tag Order Form</i></b>	
<b>Who <u>SHOULD</u> order trap tags using the enclosed form?</b>	You must order your lobster trap tags using the enclosed form if you have a Federal lobster permit and your permit address is in <b>New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, or North Carolina.</b>
<b>Who should <u>NOT</u> order tags with the enclosed form?</b>	If your Federal lobster permit has a <b>Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, or Rhode Island</b> address, you <b><u>must</u></b> order your trap tags from your state agency. <b>Maine:</b> If you have a Federal lobster permit <b><u>and</u></b> a State of Maine lobster license, you must purchase your trap tags through the Maine Department of Marine Resources. <b>New York:</b> If you have a Federal lobster permit <b><u>and</u></b> a State of New York lobster license <b><u>and</u></b> elect to fish in Area 6 only, you are required to purchase your trap tags from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation; otherwise, you may use the enclosed form.

*For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.*

<b><i>Ordering Lobster Trap Tags</i></b>	
<b>Where do I send the completed form?</b>	Cambridge Security Seals One Cambridge Plaza Pomona, NY 10970
<b>How do I pay for the trap tags?</b>	Cashier's check or money order payable to Cambridge Security Seals, or a credit card authorization. Personal or corporate checks and cash are not accepted. Payment amount should include the sales tax for your state of residence if you are not tax exempt.
<b>Where do I send my tax exemption information?</b>	Submit the state tax exemption form and other relevant documentation with your trap tag application. These forms may be obtained from your state's Department of Revenue. Orders received without a tax exemption certificate, or applicable sales tax, <b>will not</b> be processed.
<b>How long will it take to get my trap tags?</b>	<b>It may take up to 4 weeks</b> to get your trap tags once your order has been received by Cambridge Security Seals (CSS). For questions concerning orders, contact CSS at (845) 520-4111 ext. 117 or <a href="mailto:traptag@cambridgeseals.com">traptag@cambridgeseals.com</a> , or you may contact us at (978) 675-2162.
<b>How many trap tags can I order?</b>	Your overall trap allocation is the lowest trap limit of all <b>eligible</b> lobster trap areas designated on your 2015 permit. You may order that number of trap tags, plus an additional 10 percent to be used for trap tag losses.
<b>Who's responsible for lost/destroyed trap tags?</b>	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, by fax or letter, within 7 days after the trap tags are known to be lost or destroyed. There is additional guidance on the next page for lost trap tags and what to do if more than 10 percent of your tags are lost.
<b>How do I report the trap tags that were lost or destroyed?</b>	Submit a statement by mail to: Lobster Trap Tag Replacement Program National Marine Fisheries Service 55 Great Republic Drive Gloucester, MA, 01930 Or by fax to: (978) 281-9135
<b>What should the statement for lost/destroyed trap tags include?</b>	A description of the events that 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; the date traps/tags were last seen; and any other information that will help us assess the circumstances of the loss.
<b><i>Frequently Asked Questions</i></b>	
<b>What if I don't fish for lobster with traps?</b>	If trap gear (code 800) is <b>not</b> selected on your Federal permit renewal application, you are <b>not</b> required to select a management area or purchase trap tags.
<b>When will my 2015 lobster trap tags be valid?</b>	2015 trap tags must be on your traps by <b>June 1, 2015</b> , and will remain valid through <b>May 31, 2016</b> .
<b>Can I still order tags from TydenBrooks?</b>	No. Only tags purchased through Cambridge Security Seals, using this form, will be considered valid trap tags from this date forward.
<b>Where can I get more information?</b>	For questions regarding lobster management area designation or trap tags, contact us at <b>(978) 675-2162</b> or visit the Greater Atlantic Region webpage at: <a href="http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/lobster/">http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/lobster/</a>

## **Guidance on the Replacement of Used, Lost, or Destroyed Trap Tags**

If NMFS has a trap tag agreement with your state (Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Connecticut), follow the instructions provided by your state about replacing used, lost, or destroyed trap tags. Otherwise, you may replace trap tags that are attached to gear that is no longer in use and removed from the water, by exchanging them on a tag-for-tag basis as described in the next section.

1. **Replacement of Lost/Destroyed Tags Not Exceeding 10 percent of Total Trap Allocation:** Your extra 10-percent allocation of trap tags must be used to replace tags if the number of lost/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 form. You do not need our approval for using your additional allocation for routine losses if needed, but you are still required to report all lost/destroyed tags to us. If you have used your entire 10-percent additional allocation and need to replace additional tags, you must obtain approval from us in accordance with the replacement provisions described below.

2. **Replacement of Lost/Destroyed Trap Tags Exceeding 10 percent of Total Trap Allocation:**

If the number of lost/destroyed trap tags exceeds 10 percent of your total trap allocation, indicate in your statement of trap tag loss or destruction, the number of lost/destroyed trap tags you intend to replace. Note that minimum trap tag orders must be made in multiples of 20 (e.g., 20, 40, 60). Submit your statement regarding your trap tag loss to us. If you provide sufficient evidence of the loss/destruction of trap tags, we will approve your replacement request and a **Lobster Trap Tag Replacement Authorization Form** will be sent to you. Please complete the form and submit it, along with payment for the replacement trap tags, directly to Cambridge Security Seals **only** after you have received approval and a form from us.

### **Subsequent Trap Tag Orders**

Additional trap tag orders may be placed after reviewing your initial tag order under the following circumstances by using the **Lobster Trap Tag Order Form**:

1. **Orders to Purchase the Balance of Your Trap Tag Allocation:** You are not required to purchase the total allowable allocation of trap tags for the areas that you designate for trap fishing, but you must order and pay for enough trap tags for the number of traps intended to be deployed. If you do not order the total amount of trap tags you are allowed now, you may order the remaining trap tags later by using the **Lobster Trap Tag Order Form** and submit it directly with payment to Cambridge Security Seals.

2. **Orders for a Tag-for-Tag Exchange:** You may remove the trap tags from traps that have been taken out of the water and return these trap tags along with a completed **Lobster Trap Tag Order Form** and payment to Cambridge Security Seals. You will then receive an equal amount of trap tags in return. All traps must have a valid trap tag attached to them in order to be deployed.

National Marine Fisheries Service  
2015 Lobster Trap Tag Order Form



Do **NOT** use this form if your address listed on your Federal lobster permit is Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island; or if you possess a State of Maine lobster license; or if you possess a New York lobster license **and** you elected Area 6 only. If any of these conditions apply to you, **you must purchase your trap tags through your state**

1. If you are not required to purchase trap tags through your state agency, and you have a valid 2015 Federal lobster trap permit, complete Parts **A**, **B**, and **C** of this form.
2. Send this completed form and payment to:

**Cambridge Security Seals**  
**One Cambridge Plaza**  
**Pomona, NY 10970**

You may also send completed forms authorizing credit card payment via fax (**845-290-0676**) or email: [traptag@cambridgeseals.com](mailto:traptag@cambridgeseals.com) Cambridge Seals can be contacted at **845-520-4111 x117**

3. Make a copy of this blank form for use when placing subsequent trap tag orders.

**A** **PLEASE PRINT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box / Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Name \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Permit # \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Documentation # or State Registration # \_\_\_\_\_

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

Note: The lobster management areas that appear on your trap tags will be consistent with those on your 2015 Federal lobster permit. The number of trap tags you may order is equal to the trap allocation indicated on your 2015 Federal permit, plus an additional 10 percent.

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

State Tax = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Method of payment:  Amex  Visa  MasterCard  Certified Check/Money Order

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ EXP \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cashier's checks or money orders payable to: Cambridge Security Seals.

**No cash, 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.

**C** Signature \_\_\_\_\_ 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. OMB Control No. 0648-0202

Expiration



The collection of this information is authorized under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et. seq.). The information will be used to manage the American lobster fishery. One of the regulatory steps taken by us is to carry out its conservation and management objectives in 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 us to determine the number of traps in use in the fishery to better monitor fishing effort in the future.

The 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 your comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Dan Morris, Deputy Regional Administrator, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298.

In spite of any other provision of law, no one is required to respond to, or be subject to, the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget Control Number.