



# 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) 281-9315

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

Date Issued: 2/21/2019

## **Federal Lobster Permit Holders** Lobster Trap Tag Ordering Instructions *2019 Fishing Year (May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020)*

If you intend to fish for lobsters in federal waters with trap gear during the 2019 fishing year, you must renew your federal lobster permit and order lobster trap tags. This guide outlines how to order your trap tags; your permit renewal application will be sent separately. In some cases, you may be required to order trap tags through your state fisheries agency, as explained below.

To fish with lobster traps in federal waters, you must: (1) Be eligible to fish in at least one lobster management area; (2) select at least one lobster management area, which your permit qualifies for, on your federal permit renewal application. Once issued, 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 2019 trap tags. Only tags purchased through CSS will be considered valid. 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 2019 trap tag to each fished lobster trap. **The deadline for attaching the 2019 trap tags to your lobster traps is June 1, 2019.**

| <i>Using the Trap Tag Order Form</i>                              |  |
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| <b>Who <u>SHOULD</u> order trap tags using the enclosed form?</b> | You should 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, North Carolina, or New York*</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>must</b> order your trap tags from your state agency.<br><b>Maine:</b> If you have a federal lobster permit <b>and</b> a State of Maine lobster license, you must purchase your trap tags through the Maine Department of Marine Resources.<br><b>*New York:</b> If you elect to fish in <b>Area 6 only</b> , you are required to purchase your trap tags from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. |

*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>Ordering Lobster Trap Tags (For NJ, DE, MD, VA, &amp; NC)</b>          |   |
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| <b>Where do I send the completed form?</b>                                | Cambridge Security Seals<br>One Cambridge Plaza<br>Pomona, NY 10970   |
| <b>How do I pay for the trap tags?</b>                                    | A cashier's check or money order payable to Cambridge Security Seals, or a credit card authorization. They will not accept personal or corporate checks or cash. 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. You may obtain these forms from your state's Department of Revenue. Cambridge Security Seals <b>will not</b> process orders received without a tax exemption certificate or applicable sales tax.  |
| <b>How long will it take to get my trap tags?</b>                         | <b>It may take up to four weeks</b> to get your trap tags once your order has been received by CSS. For questions concerning orders, contact CSS at (845) 520-4111 ext. 117 or traptag@cambridgeseals.com, or you may contact us at (978) 281-9315.   |
| <b>How many trap tags can I order?</b>                                    | Your overall trap allocation is the lowest trap limit of all lobster trap areas designated on your 2019 permit. With this federal form, you may order that number of trap tags, plus an additional 10 percent to be used for trap tag losses (See guidance on tag loss below). For example, if you are allocated 800 traps, you may order 880 tags (800, plus 10 percent to be used for losses).  |
| <b>Who's responsible for lost/destroyed trap tags?</b>                    | The vessel owner or operator is accountable for all trap tags and is required to report all lost or destroyed tags, regardless of reason, to NMFS within seven days after the trap tags are known to be lost or destroyed. 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. There is additional guidance on the next page for 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 to NMFS?</b> | Submit a statement by fax to: (978) 281-9135; or by mail to:<br>Lobster Trap Tag Replacement Program<br>National Marine Fisheries Service<br>55 Great Republic Drive<br>Gloucester, MA, 01930   |
| <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>Frequently Asked Questions</b>   |   |
| <b>What if I don't fish for lobster with traps?</b>                       | If you fish for lobster with a non-trap federal permit, you are <b>not</b> required to select a management area or purchase trap tags.  |
| <b>When will my 2019 lobster trap tags be valid?</b>                      | 2019 trap tags must be on your traps by <b>June 1, 2019</b> , and will remain valid through <b>May 31, 2020</b> . <i>Note: 2019 federal lobster permits expire April 30, 2020</i>   |
| <b>What if I purchased/sold traps in the Trap Transfer Program?</b>       | We have received and processed all trap transfers for the 2019 fishing year. If your transaction was approved, the transfer has been applied to your 2019 permit. In December 2018, we sent participants in the Trap Transfer Program their updated 2019 allocations. The allocation listed on that confirmation letter shows the correct number of trap tags available for purchase under the guidelines above.  |

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| <b>Where can I get more information?</b> | For questions regarding lobster management area designation, the Trap Transfer Program, contact us at (978) 281-9315 or visit the <a href="#">Greater Atlantic Region webpage</a> . The order form can also be found online on the <a href="#">Greater Atlantic Region forms webpage</a> . |
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### **Guidance on the Replacement of Used, Lost, or Destroyed Trap Tags**

1. Replacement of Lost/Destroyed Tags Not Exceeding 10 percent of Total Trap Allocation: You must use your extra 10 percent allocation of trap tags 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 to use your additional allocation for routine losses, but you are still required to report all lost/destroyed tags.

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 the number of lost/destroyed trap tags you intend to replace in your statement of trap tag loss or destruction. 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. Note that minimum trap tag orders must be made in multiples of ten (e.g., 10, 20, 30, etc.). 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**

You may submit additional trap tag orders 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 submitting 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.