

Electronic Tracking of Federal Lobster Vessels

Addendum XXIX requires all federal lobster trap permit holders for Lobster Conservation Management Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and Outer Cape Cod to install and activate an approved tracking device prior to trap fishing. This requirement seeks to significantly improve stock assessments, identify areas where lobster fishing effort might present a risk to endangered North Atlantic right whales, and document the footprint of the fishery to help reduce spatial conflicts with other ocean uses like wind energy development and aquaculture.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) approves vessel tracking devices for use in the federal lobster fishery. Devices send data through satellite or cellular signal.

Permit Holders Requirements

- Devices must remain attached to your federally-permitted vessel, powered, and transmitting data while the vessel is in the water. Trackers are required regardless of landing state, trip type, location fished, or target species.
- If a device malfunctions or the vessel is out of the water, permit holders must alert vessel tracking staff (see Device Failure Protocol below).
- Tracking devices collect vessel positions once per minute. The device may collect positions once per day if the vessel is in its berth. Devices must be installed to device vendor specifications. Tampering with tracking devices is not permitted.
- Vessels with federal Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) are not exempt from tracking device requirements. If you have a VMS requirement you still must install and power an approved tracking device.
- Complete tracker requirements are in Section 3.1 of the document found here: [Addendum XXIX](#)

ASMFC Approved Vessel Tracking Devices and Contact Information

| Device Vendor | Approved Device | Website | Power Supply | Installation Location | Support Phone | Support Email Address |
|------------------|-----------------|---|--------------|------------------------|----------------|--|
| Woods Hole Group | NEMO | https://whgnemo.myportfolio.com | USB power | Interior near window | (240) 492-1944 | support@woodsholegroup.com |
| Viatrax | Boat Command | https://boatcommand.com | 12-24 V DC | Interior near window | (918) 824-1400 | support@viatrax.com |
| Archipelago | LIME | https://www.archipelago.ca/fishvuelime-asfmc | 12-24 V DC | Interior with sky view | (250) 383-4535 | StefanieD@archipelago.ca |
| Succorfish | SC2 | http://www.succorfish.com/ | | | (888) 205-5755 | sales@succorfish.com |

Administration of Vessel Trackers

- Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island will administer purchase, installation, and operation of vessel trackers for federal vessels principally permitted in these states. These states will directly reach out to their federal permit holders with additional information.
- For federally-permitted vessels with principal ports in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, the tracker program will be administered by ASMFC and your principal port state. The following provisions will apply to vessels from Connecticut through Maryland:
 - ASMFC will notify those permit holders by US mail if your vessel requires a tracking device.
 - An installation affidavit will be mailed to the address on your federal fishery permit. **Mail the completed affidavit to Vessel Tracking Project, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201.** Vessel tracking staff will then verify your device transmits correctly and provide a receipt.
 - ASMFC and your principal port state validate tracking data for trips with electronic tracking requirements. Vessel tracking staff may contact you with questions regarding your vessel tracker and/or trip reports. The Greater Atlantic Region Fisheries Office may contact you to resolve federal VTR issues.
 - ASMFC and your principal port state confirm compliance with vessel tracking requirements. Vessel tracking staff may contact you if data has not been received from your device. You must inform vessel tracking staff if your tracker breaks or if the tracker is powered down for any reason; Call 401.560.4090, or email DEM.VMS@dem.ri.gov.

Device Failure Protocol

- If your tracking device breaks, please call vessel tracking staff at 401-560-4090, or email DEM.VMS@dem.ri.gov. Contact your device vendor or their representative to repair or replace trackers in the event of device failure.
- Vessel tracking staff may also alert you of problems with your tracking device. If so, contact your device vendor or their representative to repair or replace trackers.
- Permit holders must repair or replace devices within 14 days of device failure. Within these 14 days, permit holders may continue to fish. Your state may provide a letter of authorization to fish without a device after the 14-day period in limited circumstances.

More Information

If you have questions regarding vessel tracking requirements or the reimbursement program, please contact Lindsey Aubart (laubart@asmfc.org or 703-842-0797). If you need to report malfunctioning vessel tracking devices, or need to alert the state that your tracking device must be powered down for vessel repairs, please call the dedicated vessel tracking phone number, 401-560-4090, or email DEM.VMS@dem.ri.gov (hosted by the Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries).

Additional Resources

[ASMFC FAQs on Electronic Vessel Tracking for American Lobster and Jonah Crab](#)