



# Northeast Region Bulletin

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## American Lobster Trap Area 1 Permit Holders

### Change to the Regulations for Electing Lobster Fishery Management Area 1 Small Entity Compliance Guide: Limited Access Program Information *Effective Date: May 1, 2013*

We, NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service, have approved a final rule that creates a limited entry program in the Area 1 lobster trap fishery (inshore Gulf of Maine), as recommended by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in Addendum XV to Amendment 3 of the Commission's Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. In order to maintain your Area 1 eligibility, you must apply and qualify for the Area 1 Limited Access Program by November 1, 2012.

#### *Frequently Asked Questions*

<b>Where is Area 1?</b>	Area 1 is within the Gulf of Maine stock area.
<b>How do I qualify?</b>	You must have: 1) Possession of a current Federal limited access lobster trap permit eligibility; 2) Proof of an Area 1 designation on the Federal lobster trap permit during fishing year 2008 (May 1, 2008, through April 30, 2009); and 3) Proof of purchase of an Area 1 lobster trap tag during any fishing year from 2004-2008 for the same Federal limited access lobster trap permit that was valid for fishing year 2008.
<b>How do I apply?</b>	All current limited access American Lobster permit holders will receive a letter within the next month that encloses a one paragraph application form. If you are interested in applying, you must sign that application form and return it by November 1, 2012. When you return the form, you must also submit your proof of the qualification criteria, although we might already have the necessary proof for some permit holders. If you are one of the people for whom we already have the proof, then we will tell you so in the letter and exempt you from having to re-submit this proof when you send in your application form. These letters will have further instructions, including mailing information.
<b>What is the expected timeline to apply?</b>	<b>All lobster permit holders will receive further notification approximately one month after this bulletin with details on how to apply. The deadline to submit an application is November 1, 2012;</b> however, applications received by September 1, 2012, will receive priority review.
<b>When will the Limited Entry Program become effective?</b>	We expect the Area 1 Limited Entry Program to be in place for the start of 2013 fishing year (May 1, 2013). Any permit holder who elected Area 1 for trap gear in the 2012 period will remain eligible to fish with traps in Area 1 until April 30, 2013.
<b>Where can I get a copy of the final rule?</b>	The final rule and environmental assessment are available on our website at: <a href="http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/lobster/">http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/lobster/</a>

*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, Northeast Region.*