

## Permits Needed to Sell Catch Directly to the Public

*Information from the Division of Marine Fisheries on March 19, 2020*

We [the DMF] issue a Retail Boat seafood dealer permit that allows permitted fishermen to do the following activities:

- Allows fishermen to sell “whole” fish, lobsters and crabs lawfully harvested under the authority of their commercial fishing permit from their boat to the general public. This does not include shellfish.
- Allows lobster permit holders to transport live lobsters or live crabs if they have a commercial lobster permit, that were caught aboard their permitted vessel, for sale to the public including to persons and businesses that are not retail or wholesale dealers of raw or processed fish or shellfish.

We have issued a few of these permits this week to lobstermen for this reason. The application can be downloaded here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/dealer-permit-application-packet-0/download> Applications can be mailed to our main office at 251 Causeway St. Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114 or dropped off at our Gloucester (30 Emerson Avenue) or New Bedford (836 S. Rodney French Blvd) offices. We are processing these applications as quick as possible. We could also accept a scan of the application to get the process accelerated. I think we could issue a permit the same day we received the application. **We are waiving the \$65 Retail Boat permit fee at this time.** Fishermen can contact Story Reed [story.reed@mass.gov](mailto:story.reed@mass.gov) with any questions.

Federal Dealer Permit Info –

Below is a link to the NMFS online application system. For new permit holders, they can self-register to create an account and then have access to the initial applications, which include dealer. If a vessel has permits with NMFS, they have an existing FishOnline account and can also access the suite of applications through that account. Interested fishermen can go to this website or contact the NMFS permit staff: 978 282 8438 or email: [NMFS.GAR.Permits@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.GAR.Permits@noaa.gov)

They are going to make dealer applications they receive a priority as well, so they plan to have a quick turnaround on these.

NMFS Online Permit Application System: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/resources-fishing/vessel-and-dealer-permitting-greater-atlantic-region>