



# ***Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission***

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger  
703.842.0740

### **ASMFC Releases Request for Applications for Type Approval for American Lobster and Jonah Crab Electronic Vessel Tracking Devices**

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) is seeking applications for type approval of electronic vessel tracking devices (devices) for federally permitted American lobster and Jonah crab fishing vessels. Specifically, the Commission will approve a list of vendor(s)/device(s) in which state agencies and the Commission can order in bulk, or fishing industry members can purchase individually to meet the requirements of Addendum XXIX to the American Lobster Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and Addendum IV to the Jonah Crab FMP. High quality devices are fundamental for many critical monitoring and enforcement activities in the federal American lobster and Jonah crab trap fishery and the Commission anticipates over 1,700 devices will be needed. Some vessels will start to install devices prior to the beginning of the 2023 fishing year (May 1 start date), but all federal American lobster and Jonah crab trap vessels will be required to have installed a fully operational device by December 15, 2023.

Federal lobster and Jonah crab vessels issued commercial trap gear area permits will be required to install an approved device to collect and transmit spatial data in order to participate in the trap gear fishery. This means any federally-permitted vessel without an approved device will be prohibited from landing lobster or Jonah crab taken with trap gear. Federal vessels are required to install and activate an approved device prior to beginning a lobster or Jonah crab fishing trip with trap gear. The device must remain on board the vessel and powered at all times when the vessel is in the water, unless the device is authorized to power down by the principal port state. For this reason, timely and accurate production and delivery of devices is of critical importance, and the approved vendor(s)/device(s) must be capable of ensuring the Commission's performance standards will consistently be met.

The RFA can be found at [http://www.asmfc.org/files/RFA/VesselTrackerRFA\\_Sept2022.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/files/RFA/VesselTrackerRFA_Sept2022.pdf). The RFA, as well as the Question & Answer Summary and all amendments related to the RFA, can also be found at <http://www.asmfc.org/jobs/>. Applications must be submitted to the Commission, via email, at: [LAubart@asmfc.org](mailto:LAubart@asmfc.org). Application submissions must be received no later than **11:59 p.m., local time, on October 3, 2022**. Applications not submitted to the Commission's aforementioned email address by the aforementioned deadline will not be considered for device type approval.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and diadromous species.

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201  
703.842.0740 (phone) [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)