

PRELIMINARY Table 1. Permit Information for the Massachusetts Lobster Fishery, 2017-2024¹

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Coastal Permits								
Issued	1,088	1,081	1,066	1,047	1,031	1,011	990	955
Fished	714	712	698	661	663	654	622	611
Did Not Fish	308	309	315	319	296	283	301	275
Incomplete	8	10	11	11	16	9	11	11
Not Reportin	58	50	42	56	56	65	56	58
Offshore Permits								
Issued	171	156	150	137	133	131	121	115
Fished	66	73	70	65	59	52	51	54
Did Not Fish	9	7	7	6	9	9	9	9
Incomplete	1	0	2	2	2	0	0	0
Not Reportin	95	74	71	64	63	70	61	58
Offshore Non-Trap Permits								
Issued	236	236	242	246	231	237	233	230
Fished	83	75	70	80	74	72	76	67
Did Not Fish	10	8	8	8	6	6	9	8
Incomplete	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0
Not Reportin	140	150	163	157	151	159	148	155
Seasonal (Student) Permits								
Issued	96	100	104	102	101	105	82	80
Fished	46	52	46	58	54	50	42	45
Did Not Fish	31	23	10	14	9	11	27	20
Incomplete	1	1	25	19	18	22	0	0
Not Reportin	18	24	23	11	20	22	13	15
Recreational Permits²								
Issued	6,427	6,118	6,481	6,244	5,771	5,555	5,245	4,882
Fished	3,599	3,412	3,353	3,343	3,026	2,844	2,642	n/a ³
Did Not Fish	1,099	1,107	1,032	1,104	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Not Reportin	1,729	1,599	2,096	1,797	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Data Sources:

¹ Trip-Level Reports (DMF and NMFS VTR data)

² Beginning in 2021, reporting methods for recreational harvest changed and it is no longer possible to differentiate between non-fishing activity, and non-reporting

³ Unavailable at the time this report was produced

PRELIMINARY Table 3. Massachusetts Commercial Lobster Landings, Traps Fished, and Estimated Value for 2018-2024

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Landings	18,439,451	17,866,857	16,797,873	17,029,592	15,499,957	16,014,810	16,471,265
Total Estimated Value	\$88,821,161	\$95,491,339	\$78,307,441	\$125,383,208	\$83,030,006	\$99,772,267.11	\$115,298,858.15
Total Traps Fished	398,148	380,402	369,029	361,481	346,923	364,410	346,122
Average Price (\$) / Lb	\$4.82	\$5.34	\$4.66	\$7.36	\$5.36	\$6.23	\$7.00
Ave. Lbs. Trap-Haul	1.6931	1.4850	1.5697	1.5542	1.3256	1.5339	1.5978
Ave. Lbs. /Trap	44.35	44.59	43.29	44.57	42.19	41.79	45.01
Territorial (State Waters)							
Landings	10,753,269	10,271,565	9,039,659	9,573,878	8,303,038	7,943,479	6,021,104
Estimated Value	\$51,797,522	\$54,897,482	\$42,140,607	\$70,489,275	\$44,477,625	\$49,487,874.36	\$42,147,726.25
Trap Landings	10,630,391	10,167,760	8,997,134	9,521,291	8,279,102	7,922,092	6,018,431
Traps Fished	290,279	274,322	259,546	258,626	241,952	254,547	208,333
Non-Trap Landings	122,879	103,895	42,525	52,588	23,936	21,387	2,672
Non Territorial (Federal Waters)							
Landings	7,686,181	7,595,292	7,758,214	7,455,713	7,196,919	8,071,331	10,450,162
Estimated Value	\$37,023,639	\$40,593,857	\$36,166,834	\$54,893,933	\$38,552,381	\$50,284,392.75	\$73,151,131.90
Trap Landings	7,029,161	6,892,240	6,976,830	6,589,814	6,358,003	7,308,417	9,560,341
Traps Fished	107,869	106,080	109,483	102,855	104,971	109,863	137,789
Non-Trap Landings	657,020	703,052	781,384	865,899	838,916	762,914	889,821

Data Sources:

Trip-Level Reports (DMF and NMFS VTR data), SAFIS Dealer Database

Table 4. Number of active commercial lobstermen and lobster landings by homeport for 2024. Homeport data taken from vessel information on permit applications. In cases where no vessel or homeport was specified, the primary port of landing was used. Catch data encompasses all reported landings, regardless of gear type, while effort data represents only trap effort. Shaded areas denote towns which rank in the top 10 for number of fishermen, total catch, or total effort. Some cities and towns are combined to protect the confidential nature of the data.

City / Town	Fishermen		Catch (Pounds)					Effort ¹		
	Number	Rank	Territorial	Non-Territorial	Total	Percent	Rank	Traps	Percent	Rank
Barnstable-Falmouth ²	5	21	*	*	38,160	0.23%	31	949	0.28%	36
Beverly	21	11	340,823	275,990	616,813	3.74%	6	12,294	3.57%	9
Boston	27	9	246,088	140,431	386,519	2.35%	13	12,070	3.51%	10
Chatham	30	8	152,950	413,017	565,967	3.44%	8	9,639	2.80%	13
Cohasset	22	10	218,148	15,521	233,669	1.42%	17	7,436	2.16%	14
Danvers-Salem	9	18	96,564	41,033	137,597	0.84%	21	3,719	1.08%	23
Dartmouth-Westport	14	14	33,592	521,976	555,568	3.37%	9	7,059	2.05%	15
Dennis	9	18	20,604	0	20,604	0.13%	36	2,180	0.63%	29
Duxbury-Marshfield	51	3	531,036	345,474	876,510	5.32%	4	26,989	7.84%	2
Eastham	9	18	168,406	0	168,406	1.02%	18	2,500	0.73%	27
Essex-Ipswich-Rowley	7	19	*	*	12,303	0.07%	39	892	0.26%	37
Fairhaven	10	17	60,406	16,541	76,947	0.47%	28	2,154	0.63%	30
Gloucester	134	1	919,610	3,443,922	4,363,532	26.49%	1	63,515	18.46%	1
Harwich	5	21	81,249	51,709	132,958	0.81%	22	2,226	0.65%	28
Hingham	4	22	*	*	88,999	0.54%	26	2,800	0.81%	26
Hull	22	10	170,157	84,987	255,144	1.55%	15	9,914	2.88%	12
Islands ³	21	11	23,748	66,955	90,703	0.55%	25	5,515	1.60%	17
Manchester	15	13	89,480	42,344	131,824	0.80%	23	4,149	1.21%	22
Marblehead	41	4	478,214	112,370	590,584	3.59%	7	18,371	5.34%	6
Marion-Mattapoisett	6	20	*	*	27,658	0.17%	32	1,490	0.43%	33
Nahant	11	16	*	*	234,474	1.42%	16	5,247	1.52%	19
New Bedford	34	6	42,016	2,538,017	2,580,033	15.66%	2	19,618	5.70%	5
Newburyport	6	20	5,456	12,781	18,236	0.11%	37	1,863	0.54%	32
Orleans	3	23	23,228	0	23,228	0.14%	35	817	0.24%	38
Yarmouth	4	22	*	*	24,698	0.15%	34	1,070	0.31%	35
Plymouth	51	3	506,263	122,931	629,194	3.82%	5	23,978	6.97%	3
Provincetown	31	7	316,675	179,908	496,583	3.01%	10	13,220	3.84%	8
Quincy	3	23	13,168	0	13,168	0.08%	38	703	0.20%	39
Revere-Winthrop	9	18	79,031	0	79,031	0.48%	27	3,534	1.03%	24
Rockport	56	2	563,799	672,209	1,236,008	7.50%	3	23,154	6.73%	4
Salisbury	4	22	*	*	69,006	0.42%	30	1,424	0.41%	34
Sandwich	21	11	244,898	175,195	420,093	2.55%	12	11,871	3.45%	11
Saugus	12	15	96,051	18,805	114,856	0.70%	24	5,970	1.73%	16
Scituate	39	5	237,138	226,621	463,758	2.82%	11	15,284	4.44%	7
Swampscott	9	18	*	*	164,339	1.00%	19	5,206	1.51%	20
Truro	5	21	26,200	0	26,200	0.16%	33	2,085	0.61%	31
Wellfleet	7	19	50,533	93,029	143,562	0.87%	20	4,389	1.28%	21
Weymouth	5	21	*	*	74,166	0.45%	29	3,415	0.99%	25
Out of State	18	12	0	290,168	290,168	1.76%	14	5,393	1.57%	18
Statewide Totals	790		6,345,093	10,126,173	16,471,265			344,102		

¹ The number of "Traps" for each city/town represents the sum of each individual's maximum traps fished for the year

² Barnstable includes Hyannis; Falmouth includes the village of Woods Hole, and Cuttyhunk Island

³ The town of Edgartown, Menemsha, Nantucket, Tisbury and Vineyard Haven are all included under "Islands"

* Confidential Data

2023 Lobster Trap Vertical Line Density

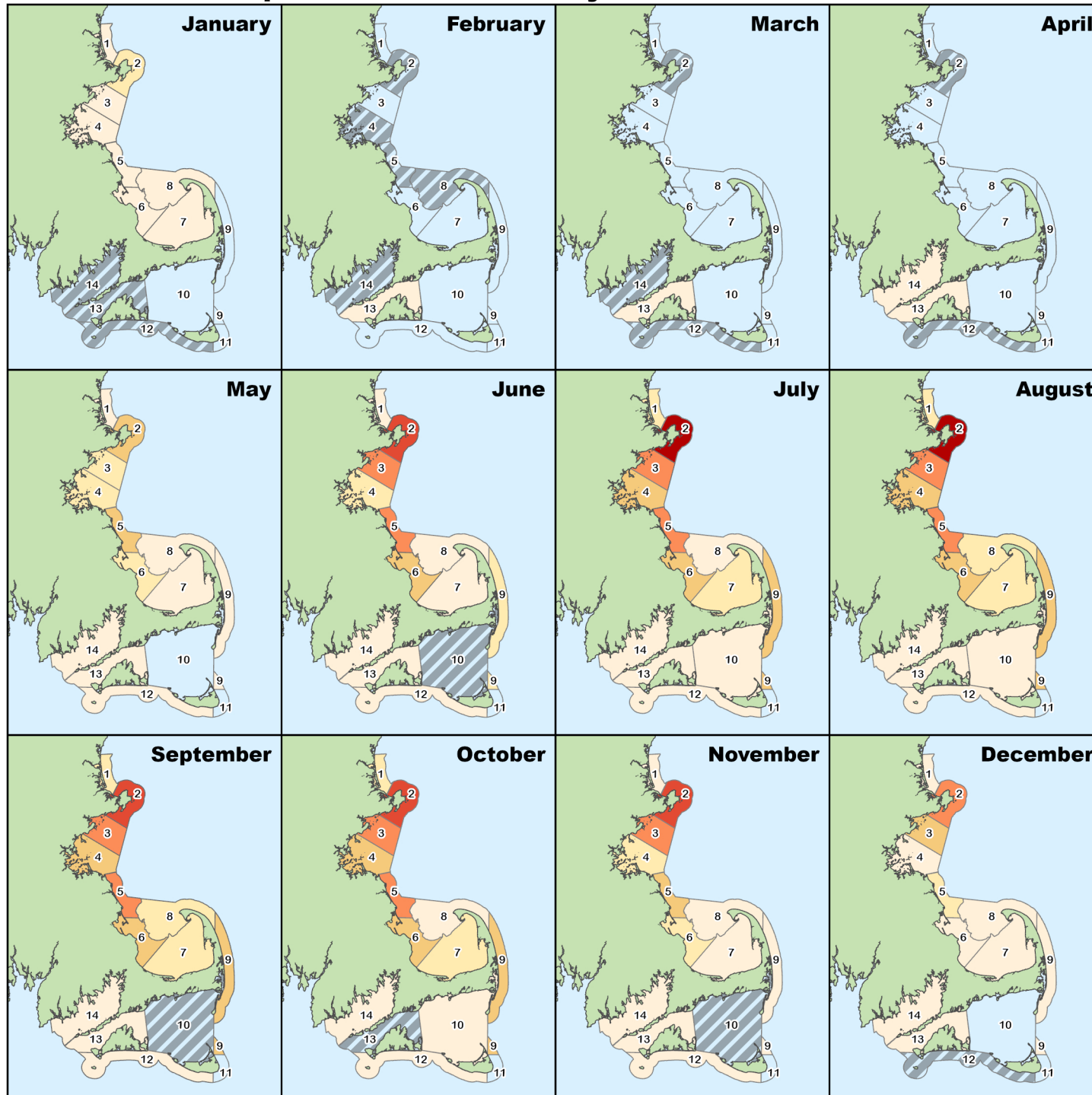
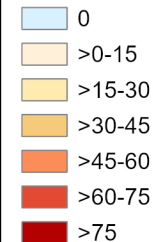


Figure 1. 2023 vertical line density (lines per square mile) across state waters Statistical Reporting Areas (SRAs) by month. The Massachusetts Bay Restricted Area closure affecting SRAs 1-9 was in effect from February 1st through May 8th in 2023. The South Islands Restricted Area was implemented for the first time from February 1st until April 30th, primarily impacting SRA12 in state waters. Fishing activity reported during the closures was closely monitored and extensively reviewed using both harvester-reported and tracking data. Non-compliance within a closure was largely characterized by fishing activity on or near the federal-state waters boundary line and/or potential reporting errors.

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2023 Lines per Square Mile



Spatial Reference
 Name: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 19N
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Map Units: Meter

0 10 20 40 Miles

Updated: 12/31/2025

