



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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## MEMORANDUM

October 22, 2019

**To: American Lobster Management Board**  
**From: Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director**  
**RE: Lobster/Jonah Crab Reporting Requirements**

American Lobster Addendum XXVI and Jonah Crab Addendum III (the addenda) approved in February of 2018 address deficiencies in the harvester reporting and biological data collection requirements for the lobster and Jonah crab fisheries. Specifically, the addenda improve the spatial resolution of data by requiring fishermen to report fishing location via 10 minute squares, which further divide the existing statistical areas. For harvester trip reports, the addenda require additional data elements including number of traps per trawl and number of buoy lines in order to collect information on gear configurations. The new data elements were to be implemented on January 1, 2019, but implementation was delayed 1 year in order to incorporate the elements into all reporting platforms by all states and jurisdictions.

While the majority of the data elements have been added to all reporting platforms, there are two (10 minute squares and number of buoy lines) that have not. It is recommended the Board postpone the requirement to collect these two data elements until January 1, 2021. In addition, there are four data elements that are not being collected consistently (see list below). It is recommended the Board task the data work group with determining a consistent data collection process for these data elements. Lastly, as the Whale Work Group deliberated issues this summer, it identified several additional data elements that would be beneficial for states to collect. It is recommended states and jurisdictions add these data elements to help evaluate lobster-whale interactions and other issues facing the industry.

As a reminder, the addenda also establish a deadline that states are required to implement 100% harvester reporting within five years, with the prioritization of electronic harvester reporting development during that time.

### **Data Elements Required for January 1, 2020:**

1. Unique Trip ID
2. Vessel Number
3. Trip Start Date
4. Location (NMFS Stat Area)
5. LCMA
6. Species
7. Reported Quality
8. Soak Time

9. Number of Buoy lines (total)
10. Trip length

**Recommended Data Elements to Postpone until January 1, 2021**

1. Location (10 minute square)
2. Total gear fishing person level

**Inconsistently Collected Data Elements**

1. Number of traps hauled - Collection varies by partner. Some partners collect this field directly while others derive it (e.g. average number of traps per string x number of strings hauled)
2. Number of traps set – All partners are collecting this field. A potential issue is that some are collecting it at the effort level and others are collecting it at the trip level.
3. Number of traps per trawl – Collection varies by partner. Some partners collect this field directly while others derive it (e.g. number of traps per effort/number of strings hauled)
4. Number of buoy lines (total)

**Suggested Additional Data Elements for Implementation**

1. Maximum depth
2. Bait type
3. Bait quantity
4. Buoy line diameter