

Draft Addendum XXIX / IV

Electronic vessel tracking in the federal lobster and Jonah crab fisheries



American Lobster Management Board
December 6, 2021

Presentation Outline



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Background



- August 2021: the Board initiated Addendum XXIX/IV to consider vessel tracking requirements for federally permitted lobster and Jonah crab vessels under ACFCMA
- Critical need for high-resolution spatial and temporal data to characterize effort in the federal American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries.
 - February 2018: the Board approved Addendum XXVI / III
 - Pilot program tested electronic tracking devices and informed Board decision on whether electronic tracking should be pursued
 - Additional work focused on data integration and hardware testing

Objective



- Addendum objective:
 - **Collect high-resolution spatial and temporal data to characterize effort in the federal American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries for management and enforcement needs**
 - **These data will improve stock assessment, inform discussions and management decisions related to protected species and marine spatial planning, and enhance offshore enforcement**

Proposed Action Timeline



Date	Action
August 2021	Board initiated Draft Addendum XXIX
Aug-Oct 2021	PDT meetings to discuss addendum development
October 2021	Update to Board on Addendum XXIX development
Oct-Dec 2021	PDT drafts document for public comment
December 2021	Board meeting to consider Draft Addendum XXIX for Public Comment
January 2022	Public hearings and comment period
Winter/Spring 2022	Special Board meeting to consider final approval of Draft Addendum XXIX

Management Options



- **Option A: Status quo**
 - No requirements for electronic tracking devices

Management Options



- **Option B: Implement electronic tracking requirements for federally-permitted lobster and Jonah crab vessels with commercial trap gear area permits**
 - Federal lobster and Jonah crab vessels w/ commercial trap gear area permits would be required to install approved electronic tracking device to collect and transmit spatial data
 - Device must remain on board and powered at all times when vessel is in the water, unless authorized to power down by the principal port state
 - **Tampering with devices prohibited**

Applicable Permit Categories



Federal Permit Category Name	Permit Category Abbr.	Description
Commercial Trap Gear Area 1	A1	May harvest lobster in Federal LMA 1 using trap gear
Commercial Trap Gear Area 2	A2	May harvest lobster in Federal LMA 2 using trap gear
Commercial Trap Gear Area 3	A3	May harvest lobster in Federal LMA 3 using trap gear
Commercial Trap Gear Area 4	A4	May harvest lobster in Federal LMA 4 using trap gear
Commercial Trap Gear Area 5	A5	May harvest lobster in Federal LMA 5 using trap gear
Commercial Trap Gear Outer Cape Area	AOC	May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Outer Cape Area using trap gear
Commercial Trap Gear Area 5 Waiver	A5W	May harvest lobster in Federal LMA 5 under the black sea pot waiver

*Commercial Trap Gear Area 6 is excluded

Applicable Permits by State from 2020



Principal Port State	Permits Requiring Tracker*
ME	1256
NH	79
MA	348
RI	99
CT	6
NY	23
NJ	40
DE	4
MD	8
VA	6
TOTAL	1882

***Table includes permits estimated to need a tracker if fished, but not all of these permits were fished in 2020.**

Requirements for Tracking Devices



- Collect location data at one ping per minute for at least 90% of the fishing trip
- Data events must contain device's current date/time, lat/long, device and vessel identifier
- Minimum accuracy of 100 m (328.1 ft) and position fix precision to the decimal minute hundredths
- Ruggedness specs to function in marine environment
- Ability to PUSH location data to ACCSP trip locations API
- Vendor customer service requirements
- Vendor must maintain the confidentiality of personally identifying information and other protected data in accordance with federal law

Administrative Processes



Several levels of administrative processes:

- Commission level
 - Device approval work group
- State level
 - Certifying device installation
 - Permit holder support
 - Data validation and compliance monitoring
- Federal level
 - Federal permit data
 - eVTR data processing



ASMFC Work Group will approve electronic tracking devices for use in the fishery

- WG will include state, federal, and Commission staff
- Vendors will provide required info to WG for review to determine if a device meets the requirements
- WG will maintain list and info on approved devices
- Changes to the requirements of tracking devices can be made by this working group with approval of the Lobster Board

State Administrative Process



States will certify device installation

- Principal port declared on federal permit determines state responsibility
- States shall certify the installation of approved vessel tracking devices for permit holders before vessel goes on a fishing trip
 - Standard affidavit for certifying an approved device is installed
- GARFO will provide states with American lobster trap gear area permit ownership information

State Administrative Process



States will provide permit holder support

- Communicate with permit holders to assist them in properly complying with the vessel tracking requirements
 - States not required to aid with installation or troubleshooting of vessel trackers
- Data validation and compliance monitoring
 - Contact permit holders to resolve data issues
 - Resolve issues of incomplete tracking data and mismatches between vessel trip reports and associated vessel tracking information
 - Ensure data collected by tracker meets the specifications defined by ASMFC.

Federal Administrative Process



GARFO will provide federal permit data and process eVTR data

- Provide states with American lobster trap gear area permit ownership information
- Incorporate federal lobster eVTR data into quality assurance program
 - Errors identified will be resolved through GARFO outreach efforts
 - Federal eVTR data will be available to ACCSP in near real-time, which can be used by ACCSP and state partners in identifying fishing activity in the vessel tracking data.

Data Processes



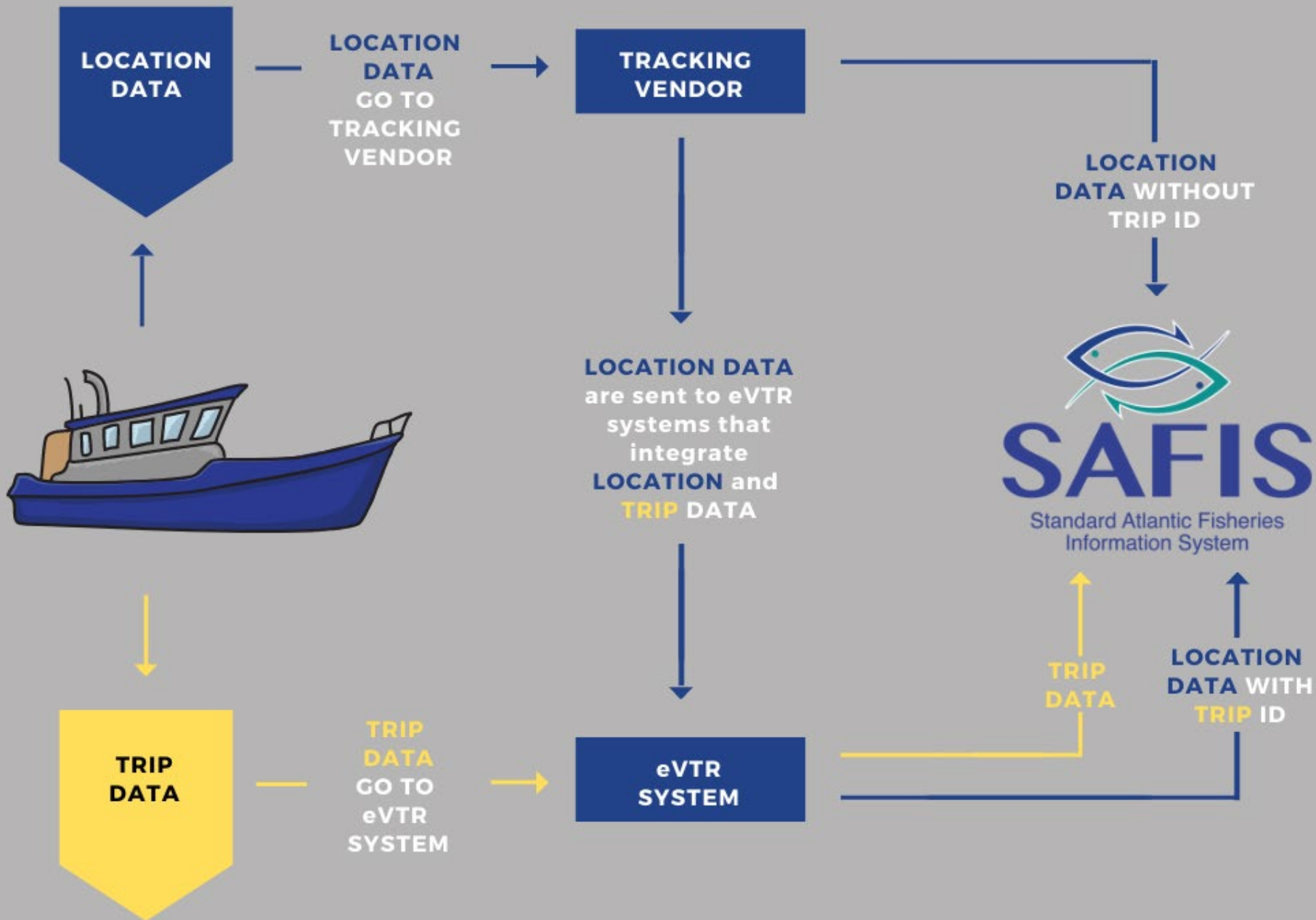
ACCSP will house tracking data

- ACCSP will receive location data from tracking vendors, eVTR data from GARFO
- All data must be submitted in accordance with the API specifications
- ACCSP will match vessel tracks with trips
- ACCSP will maintain data confidentiality in accordance with federal law and disseminate data to authorized entities

Federal/state agencies responsible for data reporting compliance

- GARFO is responsible for validation of eVTR data
- State management agencies are responsible for validation of trip location data

VESSEL TRACKING DATA FLOW



Suggested Changes



- LEC recommends adding language to prohibit tampering with tracking devices under Option B
 - *“Tampering with an approved tracking device or signal is prohibited; tampering includes any activity that may affect the unit's ability to operate or signal properly, or to accurately compute or report the vessel's position.”*
- Current draft does not include the Area 5 Waiver permit category
 - Recommend adding these permit holders be required to have tracking devices

Board Action



- Request any modifications to Draft Addendum XXIX
- Consider Draft Addendum XXIX for approval for public comment

Next Steps



- If Addendum XXIX/IV is approved for public comment today:
 - Schedule public hearings for January 2022
 - Virtual Board meeting in February or March 2022 to consider Addendum XXIX/IV for final approval
- NOAA rulemaking process

Questions?





Changes to the Draft Addendum

- Add language to prohibit tampering with devices
- Add A5W permit to applicable permit table
- Clarification of section 2.2.5 on enforcement background
- Provide a general range of costs of trackers/data
- Questions about applicability of tracking requirements
- Add language to specify how frequently vendors must PUSH data
- Add option to allow for a state or federal waiver for permitted vessels to opt out of participating in the trap fishery