

How do I transfer to a different zone?

Zone transfers are authorized by the Department annually by April 1, concurrent with licenses issued off of the waiting lists. A person who currently holds a Class I, II or III license in one zone and wants to transfer to a different “limited-entry zone” must complete the form provided by the Department and meet the following criteria.

- In order to be eligible to transfer to a different lobster zone, a fisherman must demonstrate landings of at least 5,000 lbs. in any two of the three prior calendar years. DMR will check the dealer landing reports over this time period to ensure this requirement has been met.
- A transfer to another zone is contingent on another lobsterman also wishing to transfer out of his current Zone, and into your current Zone. DMR will also need to determine if that individual meets the landings criteria described above.
- Finally, a zone transfer will not be completed for either license holder, until both license holders have submitted a Request to Transfer Lobster Zone Form and demonstrated the necessary landings.

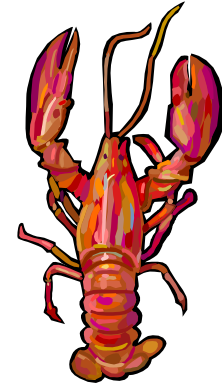
Once you have transferred, the only mechanism to switch back to your original Zone is to re-apply, and be placed on the bottom of the Lobster License Holder Transfer Waiting List.

There aren't any exceptions that would allow you to simply switch back to your previous lobster zone.

**This brochure is a summary only.
Laws & Rules are subject to change.
Do not rely upon this for legal purposes**

Please refer specific questions to:
Department of Marine Resources
Licensing Division
21 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0021
Tel: 207-624-6550

Lobster Limited-Entry Zones



**21 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0021
(207) 624-6550 option 2**

StudentApprentice.DMR@maine.gov

**Marine Patrol
Division I – (207) 633-9595
Division II – (207) 664-2392**



Department of Marine Resources

February 2019

Every lobster zone (Zones A, B, C, D, E, F, and G) is now a limited entry zone. All zones also require that apprentices apprentice in the zone in which they intend to fish. Your sponsor(s) must have declared the same zone as the one you wish to enter, and must have held a commercial lobster license for **at least** 5 years in order to sponsor you in that zone.

Who can get into a Limited-Entry Zone?

All lobstermen must declare a zone in which they *fish* the majority of their traps and will vote.

If someone wants to declare a limited-entry zone, they must either:

- Have held a Class I, II or III lobster license in the previous year that indicated the limited-entry zone as his/her declared zone; or
- Have completed the Apprentice Program and meet the criteria for entry under the student program (**see Criteria for Eligibility Insert**); or
- Be eligible to obtain a Class I, II or III lobster license and is 70 years of age or older; or
- Be eligible for a Class I, II or III lobster license under a medical or military appeal for that zone; or
- Be authorized by the Commissioner as a “New Zone Entrant” off a waiting list; or
- Be authorized by the Commissioner as a transfer off of the transfer list.

How do I become authorized as a “new zone entrant”?

The Department has an Apprentice Waiting List for each limited-entry zone in chronological order according to a person’s eligibility date. (There is a separate transfer list for licensed lobster fishermen who wish to switch zones.)

A person who does not currently hold a Class I, II or III license but has qualified for a license:

- Will be put on the Apprentice Waiting List according to their eligibility date as they become eligible.
- Can purchase or renew their apprentice and/or student license for the current year in any zone (if they are eligible).

How are new licenses awarded for a limited-entry zone?

Once the number of new zone entrants to be awarded a license for a limited-entry zone has been calculated for each limited-entry zone, a list of authorized new zone entrants is determined from the waiting list.

Authorized new zone entrants will be informed in writing and mailed a license application form by certified mail.

Authorized new zone entrants must submit their license application with correct fees and documentation to the Department. The Department must receive the application within 30 days of receipt of notice or the new zone entrant will lose their authorization to qualify for a limited-entry zone.

What if the person does not return the application within 30 days?

If an authorized new zone entrant has not correctly completed their license application and returned it to the Department within the 30-day time frame, the next person on the waiting list for the limited-entry zone will be sent a license application and have 30 days to comply in the same manner.

If the person who did not get their license wishes to get back on the waiting list, they will need to submit a completed Zone Declaration Form and will be put at the bottom of the Apprentice Waiting List.

How is the number of new zone entrants calculated?

By April 1 of each year, the Department will calculate the number of licenses to be awarded to new entrants for each limited-entry zone for that calendar year. The exit ratio is based on either the number of trap tags or the number of licenses retired by individuals exiting the fishery (no longer renewing their licenses) depending on the zone. For the current list of exit ratios, please see Chapter 25.93, Section F-1(b) in Regulations (Rules) on the Marine Resources website.

<http://www.maine.gov/dmr/laws-regulations/regulations/index.html>

Lobster License Appeals

A person may be granted a license under appeal if the person can document to the Commissioner that they meet the statutorily set criteria for a:

- Medical waiver; or
- Military waiver; or
- Reinstatement following a license suspension.