



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
284 STATE STREET
41 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041



JUDITH CAMUSO
COMMISSIONER

March 1, 2019

Dear Eel Pot Permit Holder,

As you may know, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has required catch data from commercial fishermen licensed to harvest American eels in Maine's inland waters for several years. The purpose of collecting these data is twofold: first, to obtain accurate information on the number of eels harvested in Maine; and second, to demonstrate the social and economic importance of the fishing industry to the State and inland communities. Many of you are already aware that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's American Eel Management Board, in cooperation with member states, directs the commercial glass, yellow, and silver eel fisheries along the Atlantic coast. The Eel Management Board is now requiring all states with American eel fisheries to track the monthly harvest of American eels. As a holder of an Eel Pot permit, you are therefore required to submit monthly harvest, trip level information.

Included in this packet are harvest report forms, with instructions, and an example on how to use the form. Since your Eel Pot permit became valid on the date it was issued, the first report due will be for the first month you held the permit. If you did not fish for the month please indicate that information on the reporting form. The reports need to be submitted on a monthly basis, by the 10th of each month. If you do not use your permit for the entire year, indicate as such on the form.

I assure you that all information you provide will be kept in the strictest confidentiality as dictated by the provisions of 12 M.R.S.A §12506.

8. Reports required. A person issued a permit under this section shall submit a completed report on forms provided by the department with the following information: water name and location, including the town and county of waters fished; date fished; total catch; gear type and quantity; number of crew; amount of time the gear is set; total gear in the water; water depth; total time the boat is on the water; species and pounds harvested; license number of the dealer the catch was sold to or the disposition of the catch; town where the catch was brought to shore; boat registration number; vessel name; and the harvester's name, telephone number and permit number. A holder of an eel permit must submit the report by the date specified on the permit. A holder of a sucker, lamprey or yellow perch permit must submit the report by December 31st of each year. All data submitted as part of the report are for scientific purposes only and are confidential and not part of a public record within the meaning of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1, except that the commissioner may disclose data collected under this subsection if that data are released in a form that is statistical or general in nature. If a person issued a permit under this section fails to provide information required under this section, the commissioner may refuse to renew or may revoke that person's permit. If a person becomes ineligible for a permit as a result of a violation of this section, that person may request a hearing in accordance with section 10905.

Please submit the report form to the following address:

Merry Gallagher
Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
650 State Street
Bangor, Maine 04401-5654
or
e-mailed to Merry.Gallagher@maine.gov

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 207-941-4381 or by email Merry.Gallagher@maine.gov
Thank you for your cooperation,

Merry Gallagher
Native Fish Conservation Biologist

EEL POT DEFINITION AND CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION UNDER A MAINE DIFW EEL TAKING PERMIT

1. For the purpose of this definition an “eel pot” means a cylindrical or rectangular trap with funnels that is baited and used to harvest eels. An eel pot is 50 cubic feet or less in total volume and utilizes wire or slatting no smaller than ½ inch square measure.
2. Eel pots must be marked with a buoy and shall be clearly labelled with the owner’s name and address. Two or more pots may be placed upon a common line with a single buoy.
3. There shall be no closed season for fishing eels with pots.
4. Eel pots shall be placed in such a manner so as to not obstruct boat launch area, boating channels, swimming areas, or other areas used by recreationist.
5. Eel pots may not be baited with live fish.
6. All eel pots shall be tended at least twice a week. Species not covered under this permit shall be released immediately upon tending of gear.
7. Due to an ongoing eel lifecycle study by the Maine Dept. of Marine Resources, eel pots cannot be placed in West Harbor Pond in Boothbay Harbor and Knickerbocker Pond in Boothbay Harbor.
8. This permit does not give the permittee the right to place fishing gear on private property against the wished of the property owner. Portions of the Penobscot River and submerged lands surrounding the islands in the river are part of the Penobscot Indian Reservation and Indian Township in Washington County is Passamaquoddy Reservations. You must receive permission from the appropriate owner/owners prior to setting any gear.
9. Harvest reports must be submitted on a monthly basis, by the 10th of each month. If you do not use your permit for the entire year, indicate as such on the form.

Instructions

A. Header Information:

- **Harvester Name:** Print name legibly as it appears on your permit.
- **Permit Number:** (found in upper right hand corner of your license).
- **Phone:** Enter a phone number where you may be reached if the form has not been filled out correctly.
- **Vessel Name:** Enter name of boat (if applicable).
- **Boat Registration Number:** Enter state boat registration number.
- **Year:** Enter year of harvest.
- **Month:** Enter month of harvest. **Use one form per month.**
- **Did Not Fish This Month:** Check this box if you did not fish for the month.

B. Positive Report Information: If you did attempt to harvest American eels, fill out the following:

Note: Do not fill out data for days you are only setting out gear; only record the days when you actively fished, even if you did not catch anything.

- **Date:** Enter the harvest day.
- **# Of Crew:** Number of people including the captain. If you harvested with another licensed person who is also reporting his catch, put your individual catches and efforts on separate forms. When you split your catches, put the crew as 1.
- **Gear Type:** Enter the code for the type of gear used – for Eel Pots use the code **PTEI**.
- **Gear Quantity:** Enter the quantity of gear used; if you are hauling pots, enter the number of pots hauled that day (e.g., if you hauled 30 pots, enter 30 here)
- **Set Time (hrs):** Enter the average hours of soak time for pots hauled. If entering a different time unit (e.g. days), indicate as such.
- **Total Gear In Water:** Enter the total amount of gear that you had in the water on that day. Skip this if you skipped *Gear Quantity* above.
- **Depth (Ft):** Enter the average depth of the gear in feet.
- **Area Fished:** Lake, river pond or stream name.
- **Boat Time:** Estimate the total harvest time in hours, including travel to and from the harvest location.
- **Species:** For eel pot harvesters it will always be EELA
- **Pounds:** Enter the estimated pounds of the catch in its landed condition.

- **Dealer Land # Or Use Code:** If you sold the catch to a dealer, enter the dealer's landings number here. If you did not sell to a dealer, enter the use code (**Table**) to define the fate of the catch. If you held the catch from multiple trips before selling it to the dealer indicated, put * next to the dealer license number to indicate it was not sold that day, but held over (or carred) and then sold at a later date.
- **Port Landed (Town):** Enter the port where the catch was landed.

C. Signature: Sign.

D. Comments: Add any comments you feel are appropriate related to abundance, catch, size of eels landed.

Table of Use Codes	
(License #)	If you sold to a dealer, enter the dealer's number here. If you did not sell to a dealer, use one of the codes below.
AF	Animal food
B	Bait
BM	Biomedical use
EP	Educational purposes
PU	Kept for personal use
O OTHER	(state in comments section)
FO	Retailed to the public for food

Reports are due on a monthly basis by the 10th of the following month.

*Submit reports to: Merry Gallagher, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife,
650 State Street Bangor, Maine 04441*

or e-mailed to Merry.Gallagher@maine.gov

If any questions about how to fill out these report forms, call (207) 941-4381.

