



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



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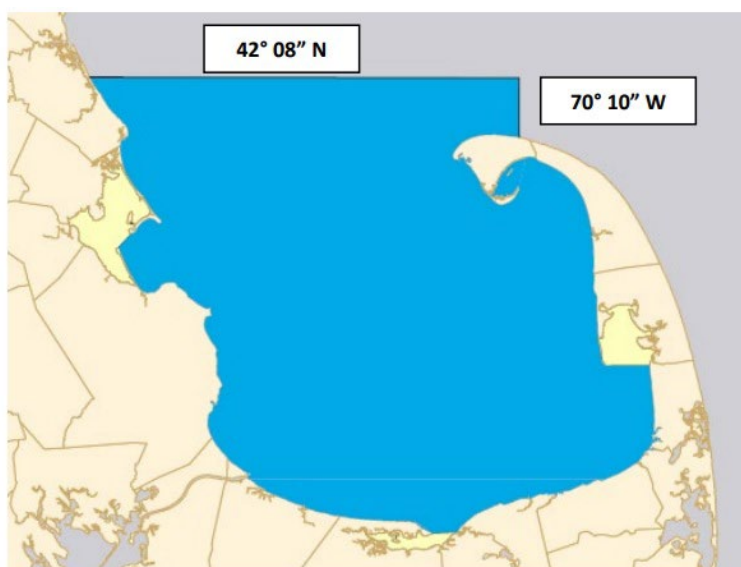
DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN  
Director


April 29, 2024


### MarineFisheries Advisory

#### **DMF Extends Small Vessel Speed Restriction for Cape Cod Bay to Protect Right Whales**

As a result of the ongoing presence of right whales, the Division of Marine Fisheries is extending the small vessel speed restriction in Cape Cod Bay through May 15, 2024. Small vessels (less than 65') are required to travel at speeds no greater than 10 knots in this area. Right whales are highly susceptible to injury and death due to vessel collision. A complementary federal speed restriction in the same area applies to vessels 65' and greater until May 15.



**Restricted Speed Limit Area** 

**Exempted Inshore Waters** 

During aerial surveillance on April 26, the Center for Coastal Studies documented 52 right whales in Cape Cod Bay, including three mother/calf pairs, all of which were skim feeding at the surface or just below the surface. This feeding behavior makes them highly susceptible to vessel collision. All mariners are advised to follow the speed limit and use extreme caution when transiting the area. Additionally, it is unlawful, under state and federal law, to approach a right whale within 500 yards. If you observe a right whale entangled in fishing gear while on the water, report it immediately to the Center for Coastal Studies (800-900-3622), the state Office of Environmental Law Enforcement (800-632-8075) or the federal Entanglement Hot Line: (866- 755-6622).

For more information regarding the management of protected species in Massachusetts, please visit our website: [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)

SOUTH COAST FIELD STATION  
836 S. Rodney French Blvd  
New Bedford, MA 02744

CAT COVE MARINE LABORATORY  
92 Fort Avenue  
Salem, MA 01970

NORTH SHORE FIELD STATION  
30 Emerson Avenue  
Gloucester, MA 01930