Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626-1520

MASS. DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
MOBILE GEAR REGULATED AREAS

"ROLLING" CLOSURES
(Compliments Federal Rule)
- AREA Between 42° 00' and 42° 30' Closed January – April and October – November
- AREA Between 42° 30' and the New Hampshire border Closed April – May
- AREA South of 42° 00' Latitude and East of 70° 00' Longitude Closed May

FISH WEIRS
No Fishing may take place within 150 ft. of a fish weir bowl and within 200 ft. on either side of the leader extending 500 ft. along the leader from the first leader pole.

- Flounder Spawning Closure Line
- State Territorial Seas Line
- Nantucket Sound Management Line (70 W)
- Net Mesh Size Regulation Lines

FLOUNDER SPAWNING CLOSURE LINE
From February 1 to May 31 all waters are closed to commercial fishing inshore of Flounder Spawning Closure Line from New Hampshire to Provincetown.

Exceptions: Mid-water trawling for sea herring. Special permit required. No flounder may be retained.

- INSHORE NET AREAS – Closed All Year
- Other Areas Closed All year
- AREA 7a Closed April 23 – October 31 out to 1/4 mile; Closed June 1 – October 31 out to 1/2 mile
- AREA 7b Closed May 1 – October 31
- AREA 6 Closed May 1 – December 14; Special Endorsement Required
- AREA 5 Closed April 1 – June 14 and October 1 – January 31; Special Endorsement Required
- AREA 4 Closed April 1 – December 31
- AREA 3 Closed April 1 – October 31
- AREAS 2a and 2b Closed May 1 – October 31
- AREA 1a Closed April 1 – April 30
- AREA 1b Closed April 1 – April 30 and June 1 – September 15

GEAR RESTRICTIONS:

Mobile Gear is defined as otter trawl, pair trawl, beam trawl, Scottish seine, Danish seine, pair seine, or other simular devices including scallop dredges.
Maximum vessel size is 72 ft. in length over all.
A special permit is required to fish with mobile gear in waters under Massachusetts jurisdiction.
No night fishing.

ROLLERS
Net rollers must not exceed 12 inch diameter in state waters.

DREDGES
Sea scallop dredge or combination of dredges cannot exceed 10 feet.

NET MESH SIZE
In all state waters north of Loran C line 9960-Y-43940 net mesh size must be at least 6" or 6.5" square.

In waters south of Cape Cod to R.I. border including waters east of Chatham south of Loran C line 9960-Y-43940, there are no trawl mesh restrictions from April 23 – May 31. This season may be extended up to June 15 at the Discretion of the Director.

From June 1 – October 31 mesh size must be at least 4 1/2".

From Nov. 1 – April 22, mesh size must be at least 6" or 6.5" square.

Any vessel possessing mesh less than 6" or 6.5" square from April 23 – Oct. 31 must not possess more than 100 lbs of flounders (any species in combination).

DATA SOURCES:

FISHERIES REGULATORY AREAS
–Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Code of Massachusetts Regulations 322 100–1200

STATE TERRITORIAL WATERS
–Muskegat Channel, 1990 NOAA CHARTS 1:80,000
–3 Miles off Cuttyhunk Baseline, US vs. MAINE 1981 Supplemental Decree
–Other Areas, 1984 NOAA CHARTS 1:80,000

COASTLINE
–Coastline from USGS 1:100,000 DLG's
–Town Boundaries automated from USGS 1:25,000 Quads

Map produced by DFWELE GIS in cooperation with MassGIS

INSHORE NET AREAS
Estuaries, embayments, salt ponds, tidal creeks and rivers in which all fishing with any type of net is prohibited unless a special permit is obtained from DMF. Defined in 322 CMR 4.02 or contact DMF for locations

NOTE:
Regulations may change following the publication of this map. Contact the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries to learn about such changes. Regulations current as of January 2001.

Coastline in the Chatham – Monomoy area is under continous change. Coastline displayed is from 1986. For information on how coastal changes may have altered inshore-net-area line contact Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries.

FISHERIES WITHIN NANTUCKET SOUND ARE MANAGED BY MASS. DMF

Department of Fisheries, Wildlife & Environmental Law Enforcement

0 5 10 15 20 25 STATUTE MILES
0 5 10 15 20 NAUTICAL MILES

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