



MARINE FISHERIES REGULATION SUMMARIES

as of May 2009

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These documents are updated annually to serve as a companion document to Mass. General Laws, Chapter 130 and rules and regulations 322 CMR.

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MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
 (as of May 2009)

Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

The following regulatory changes occurred during January 2008 through April 2009:

(Note: This is not a comprehensive list of all regulatory changes enacted during this period. It does NOT include regulations changed by emergency actions, nor does it include regulations that have been superseded by more recent changes.) Please contact the authors for more information or suggestions.

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

1. The Director, through conditions on permits, banned purse seining for Atlantic bluefin tuna in Cape Cod Bay.

Bay Scallops

2. DMF finalized a clarification on which bay scallops are legal for harvest based on presence and location of an annual growth ring as well as size in some cases. The harvest and possession of seed scallops, defined as scallops without a well-defined raised annual growth line at least 10 millimeters (mm) from the hinge of the shell, is prohibited. An exception to this prohibition was established for those scallops that have a well-defined raised annual growth line located less than 10 mm from the hinge of the shell if the shell height is at least 63.5 mm (2.5”).

Black Sea Bass

3. The 2009 spring black sea bass fishery will run during May 1 – 24 on open fishing days Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday with a 500-lb trip limit for pots and weirs and 100-lb trip limit for all other gear types (Table 1). Pending available quota, the fishery would reopen on August 1.

Table 1. 2009 Commercial black sea bass limits (322 CMR 6.28)

Season	Gear Type	Open Fishing Days	Possession limit
Jan – April	All authorized gear types	All	100 lb
May 1 – May 24	Fish pot & weir	Sun, Tue, & Thurs.	500
	Lobster traps		100
	All other authorized gear types		100
August 1 – December (quota dependent)	Fish pot & weir	TBD*	TBD
	Lobster traps		TBD
	All other authorized gear types		TBD

* The Director may adjust the trip limits based on availability of quota.

3. The recreational black sea bass minimum size increased from 12” to 12.5” (322 CMR 8.06) to comply with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) mandated reduction (10%) in harvest.

Blue Crabs

4. Recreational and commercial harvesters are limited to a new 50-blue crab possession limit.

Fixed Gear (related to protected species measures)

5. Regulatory amendments were enacted to remain current with changes to the federal Atlantic Large Whale and Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plans (322 CMR 4.13 & 12.00). Specifically revised regulations:
 - a. require marking of fixed gear (gillnet and pots/traps) buoy lines with gear-specific 4-inch colored mark midway on the buoy line (see Table 2 for gear-specific colors). Note, recreational fishermen will not be required to mark their buoy lines until January 1, 2010;

Table 2. Gear-specific colors for marking buoy lines on fixed gear.

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Gear	Color
Gillnets	Green
Pots/Traps	Red for all inshore lobster fishing (LCMA 1, 2 and Outer Cape)
	Black for offshore fishery (LCMA 3 only)
Exception , if color of rope is same as color code, a white mark may be substituted for the mandated color.	

- b. allow bottom gillnetters to re-gain access to a portion of waters in the northern Gulf of Maine that is no longer closed under the Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan;
- c. prohibit use of bottom gillnets during March South of Cape Cod in waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth west of the 70° 30' W longitude line and south of a line drawn westerly from the intersection of the 70° 30' W longitude line with the Mashpee shoreline;
- d. mandate use of pingers on bottom gillnets fished in Upper Massachusetts Bay and Ipswich Bay during specific times (see Table 3);

Table 3. Times and places when/where gillnetters must use pingers.

Area	Period during which bottom gillnets must have pingers
Upper Massachusetts Bay/Ipswich Bay from Marblehead to the New Hampshire Border	September 15 – May 31
Massachusetts Bay Area	December – February and April – May

For further details on area boundaries see 322 CMR 12.04(3).

- e. require gillnets be rigged with anchoring system with the holding power of at least 22-pound Danforth anchor (eliminates previous anchoring system options); and
- f. require 600-lb weak link for pot gear year-round, except during January 1 – May 15 in the Right Whale Critical Habitat when a 500-lb. weak link is required.

Groundfish (including monkfish)

- 6. Commercial fishermen authorized to fish for monkfish may land and possess no more than 470-lbs. of monkfish tails or 1,560-lbs. of whole weight monkfish. Previously, fishermen with only state permits were unconstrained by monkfish possession limits. This limit maintains a limited fishery that has been conducted in waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth.
- 7. Prohibitions on cod fishing in the CCZ during December & January were continued for another three years through 2011 (322 CMR 8.15, thereby lifting prior restrictions in place during the month of February). During the closure period no person shall harvest cod from waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth north of latitude 42° 20' and south of 42° 30'. It is unlawful for any person to fish, set, or abandon any gear capable of harvesting cod in this CCZ during the restricted season. This prohibition applies to all gillnets, otter trawls, mid-water trawls, seines, and all hook-and-line gears including longlines, rod-and-reel, and handlines, however exempted gears include lobster traps, and drags used for scallops and urchins.

Hook Gear

- 8. As of March 6, 2008 persons issued a new commercial permit authorizing use of hook gear in a fishery, excluding striped bass, may be subject to future management restrictions. At this time, no management restrictions have been proposed; any future regulatory proposals would go to public hearing. Previously, a November 4, 2004 hook gear control date was in effect, but expired in 2006.

Horseshoe Crab

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9. Regulations were enacted to cap landings near current levels in anticipation of unprecedented pressure on Massachusetts fisheries, resulting from shortages of crabs in other states. The actions included: 1) a lowering of the daily catch limit from 1,000 to 400 crabs, 2) a moratorium on new permits, 3) a new overall quota limit of 165,000 crabs (down from 330,377 crabs) and 4) seasonal, temporary closure of the fishery to allow accounting of landings to determine catch levels.

Inshore Net Regulations for Pelagic Fisheries

10. Regulations were enacted that implement net specifications and performance standards in the Commonwealth's nearshore pelagic fisheries (322 CMR 4.02, 4.14, 4.15, 6.07, 7.00 & 12.00). Approved measures:
- a. specify that a Coastal Access Permit (CAP) for mobile gear is required to use purse seines, but that moratorium on new CAPs does not apply to those being issued specifically for the use of purse seines;
 - b. specify that the 72-foot maximum vessel length limit for CAP holders does apply to purse seine vessels but certain permit holders who have fished purse seines with vessels longer than 72-feet in waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth since 1995 may be exempt from the vessel size limit;
 - c. establish a distinct commercial surface gillnet endorsement, separate from a sink gillnet endorsement;
 - d. increase the maximum gillnet size from 200 to 250 square feet that could be used and still be exempt from surface gillnet permit requirement;
 - e. clarify requirement that any person using a surface gillnet for purposes of obtaining and selling bait to a person who is not a licensed dealer must obtain both a commercial fishermen's permit and a bait dealer's permit;
 - f. clarify that vessels using or possessing surface gillnets shall not be precluded from possessing striped bass under a longstanding regulation that prohibits striped bass possession for vessels "rigged for netting;"
 - g. require all fishermen fishing surface gillnets to remain within 200 feet of the net at all times. This recommendation increases the maximum distance from 100 feet proposed at public hearing;
 - h. approve a maximum net length of 300 linear feet fishing at any one time. Permit holders seeking to fish longer nets or setting overnight without tending may be permitted through experimental fishery permits;
 - i. require that for each 50 linear feet of gillnet, at least one headrope float must be marked with the letters "SGN" as well as the DMF 6-digit permit number, and a buoy marking scheme that includes reflective tape and the 6-digit number;
 - j. prohibit use of more than one net in the water at a time; additional nets must be stowed aboard the vessel;
 - k. approve maximum mesh opening of 3 3/4" and a minimum mesh opening of 1 7/8." This recommendation liberalizes the minimum mesh size from 2 1/2" down to 1 7/8";
 - l. enact a seasonal river herring protection closure that prohibits the use of surface gillnets in south coastal waters prior to May 16 and in waters east and north of Cape Cod prior to June 1;
 - m. prohibit year-round use of surface gillnets in excess of 250 square feet in Buzzards Bay;
 - n. allow any person to use a cast net for purposes of catching bait species for personal use without a permit;
 - o. require any person using a cast net for purposes of obtaining bait for sale to a bait dealer to obtain a commercial fishing permit; and
 - p. require any person using a cast net for purposes of obtaining bait for sale to someone who is not a dealer to obtain both a commercial fishermen's permit and a bait dealer's permit.

River Herring

11. The current moratorium on directed harvest of river herring was continued for another three years, through 2011. The allowed tolerance for bait fisheries (5% by count of any batch) was unchanged.

Scup

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12. The 2009 directed commercial scup fishery will be open on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays during the period May 1 – 31 and beginning August 1 until the quota is exhausted. The weir quota set-aside was increased to 177,000-lbs. Table 4 provides further details on trip limits and open fishing days.

Table 4. 2009 Commercial Summer/Fall Scup limits (322 CMR 6.28)

Season (quota dependent)	Gear Type	Open Fishing Days	Possession limit
May - October	Fish Weir	All	Weirs' landings shall be limited to 177,000 in aggregate
April 23 – June 9	Trawlers during squid & fluke seasons	All	400 lb
June 10 – Oct 31		Sun through Thurs.	400 lb
May 1 – 31	Fish pot & hook-and-line	Sun, Tue & Thu	200 lb
Aug 1 - Oct 31		Mon. through Thursday	400 lb

13. Recreational fishermen are subject to the following minimum sizes, open season and possession limits when recreationally fishing for scup (Table 5):

Table 5. 2009 Recreational scup measures (322 CMR 8.06)

Sector	Minimum Size	Open Season	Possession Limit
Private	10.5" (no change)	May 24 – Sep 26 (new)	10 fish (new)
For-hire	11" (new)	May 15 – Jun 28: 45-days (new)	45 fish (new)
		Jun 29 – Sep 17: 81-days (new)	10 fish (new)

Spiny Dogfish

14. MFC approved a November 6, 2008 control date for the spiny dogfish fishery (322 CMR 7.04). No management measures have been proposed at this time in association with this date.

Striped bass

15. For-hire captains conducting charters are allowed to dispose of striped bass racks at-sea (322 CMR 6.07).

Summer Flounder (Fluke)

16. Changes were implemented in the commercial fluke fishery beginning in 2008, including a February 1st season opening under a 500-lb. daily possession limit as well as changes to fishery sub-periods.

In the past, there has been a winter fishery divided into two sub-periods allocated 15% of the quota each, the first starting January 1 and the second beginning November 1, and a summer fishery beginning on April 23 that was allocated the remaining 70% of the quota.

The goal was to constrain landings to prevent an inadvertent reduction in the summer sub-quota. However, due to the high catch rates and volume of landings in January 2007, over 10% of the quota was harvested during the first five days of the Winter I fishery. The February start date for the winter period should markedly reduce the rate of quota consumption and fluke landings attributed to the Commonwealth.

New regulations revise the sub-periods. Instead of Winter I/II and Summer sub-periods, the February – April 22 sub-period is now referred to as Period I. The Period I fishery possession limit drops to 100-lbs.

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when 25% of the annual quota has been reached. Period II opens on April 23rd and runs through December 31st or until the quota is harvested, whichever comes first.

The Period II possession limits remain the same as the traditional summer period limits:

Gear Type	4/23-6/9	6/10-12/31, or quota is harvested
Net	100-lbs.	300-lbs.
Longlines	100-lbs.	200-lbs.
Handline or Rod&Reel	Landing & possession prohibited	200-lbs.

17. Recreational fishermen are subject to a 5-fluke possession limit at an 18.5" minimum size during July 1 – August 13 (322 CMR 8.06). This action increased the minimum size by ½" and shortened the season by 23 days. Based on disparate public hearing comments between private anglers and for-hire vessel operators, DMF intends to seek different rules in 2010 for the two sectors.

Trap Tags

18. Commercial lobstermen authorized to fish traps in the Outer Cape Cod (OCC) Lobster Conservation Management Area are required to affix current trap tags by March 16th (322 CMR 6.31).

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FISHERY:	FISH WEIRS (also known as Fish Traps or Pound Nets)				
PERMIT REQUIRED:				<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
	(1)	Commercial Fishermen			
		Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster		\$260	\$520
		Boat 60 - 99 feet		\$195	\$390
		Boat 59 feet or less		\$130	\$260
	If certain species are being taken or landed:				
(2)	Species-specific regulated fishery endorsement, including groundfish (if vessel has no federal groundfish or monkfish permit)		\$30		\$60
PERMIT LIMIT:	None				
PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:	In the following order, one must have approval from: 1) Local selectmen regarding the construction and location. 2) Division of Marine Fisheries [Ch. 130 sec.29] . 3) Division of Waterways.				
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	Annual catch reports (Ch. 130 sec 33) .				
GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inshore and offshore ends must be marked with DMF permit numbers signs or flags; numbers must be at least 6" in height [Ch.130 sec.30]. • Division of Waterways regulates the marking of traps for navigational criteria. • To designate the "fish trap buffer zone", weir heads and leader must be marked with 12" orange inflated balls attached to anchor lines and marked with DMF assigned number. See CMR 4.04 for more details. 				
PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Lobster [Ch. 130 sec.37] ; Striped bass [CMR 6.07] , shad [CMR 4.12] , smelt [Ch.130 sec.35] , river herring [CMR 6.17] , sturgeon [CMR 6.16] , Atlantic salmon [CMR 6.06] , and certain shark species including basking sharks, dusky sharks, sand tiger sharks, and white sharks [CMR 6.37] .				

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FISHERY:	FOR-HIRE FISHING				
PERMIT REQUIRED:				<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
	(1)	For-hire vessels	\$10	\$20
		Head boat issued to vessels carrying seven or more paying customers.			
		Charter boat issued to vessels carrying three to six paying customers.			
		Guide boat issued to vessels carrying up to two paying customers.			
PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:	Vessels permitted as both for-hire vessels and commercial vessels may not engage in commercial fishing activity for groundfish species while engaged in for-hire fishing activities [CMR 7.01]				
AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION		DURATION		REGULATION
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.		Year-round		CMR 4.04
	Winter Cod Conservation Zone		Dec. 1 – Jan. 31		CMR 8.15
	Spring Cod Conservation Zone		May 1 – June 30		CMR 8.15
PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Sturgeon [CMR 6.16] , Atlantic salmon [CMR 6.06] , river herring [CMR 6.17] , and certain shark species including basking sharks, dusky sharks, sand tiger sharks, and white sharks [CMR 6.37] .				

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FISHERY:	GILLNETTING (Fishing on or near bottom)
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PERMIT REQUIRED:			<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
(1)	Commercial Fishermen			
	Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster	\$260	\$520
	Boat 60 - 99 feet	.....	\$195	\$390
	Boat 59 feet or less	.....	\$130	\$260
(2)	Regulated sink gillnet endorsement	.....	\$30	\$60
If certain species are being taken or landed:				
(3)	Species-specific regulated fishery endorsement	.....	\$30	\$60

PERMIT LIMIT:	Regulated fishery gillnet endorsement limited to renewals only (limited access).
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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	Catch reports required (forms supplied by DMF & available online at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).
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GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesh minimum size: 6 ½” (stretched) [CMR 8.10]. • Net maximum length: 2400 feet [CMR 4.13]. • Knot-less weak link at the buoy with a breaking strength of 600 lbs. [CMR 12.06]. • Weak links with a breaking strength of up to 1,100 lbs. must be installed in the float rope between net panels [CMR 12.06]. • Anchoring system must have holding power of at least 22 pound Danforth anchor [CMR 12.06]. • Marking [CMR 4.13] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>East end</u> – high flyer and 12” tetrahedral radar reflector. <u>West end</u> – high flyer, flag, and tetrahedral radar reflector. <u>Buoy</u> - permanently and visibly marked or branded with the permit number of the owner. <u>Buoy line</u> - marked with a four inch green mark (white if rope is same or similar color to green) midway on the buoy line. • Vessel maximum size: 90 feet registered length [CMR 8.05]. • Must haul nets at least every 30 days [CMR 12.03]. • Prohibition on positively buoyant groundline and buoy lines [CMR 12.03] • “Pingers” are required [CMR 12.04] when fishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>September 15 through May 31</u> in Upper Massachusetts Bay and Ipswich Bay from Marblehead to the New Hampshire Border. <u>December 1 through February & April 1 through May 31</u> in the Massachusetts Bay Area and Cape Cod South Area.
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION
	Inshore Restricted Waters	Year-round	CMR 4.02
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04
	Cape Cod Bay Critical Habitat	Jan. 1 – May 15	CMR 12.04

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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES cont'd):	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>
	North of Cape Cod inside spawning closure line from P'town to N.H.	Feb. 1 - May 31	CMR 8.09
	Massachusetts Bay Closure	Mar. 1 - 31	CMR 12.04
	South of Cape Cod Harbor Porpoise Closure	Mar. 1 - 31	CMR 12.04
	South of Cape Cod including Nantucket Sound and Vineyard Sound	Apr. 1 – Nov. 15	CMR 4.09
	Groundfish Closure I: Upper Cape Cod Bay and Mass. Bay (South of Marblehead)	Apr. 1 - May 31 & Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	CMR 8.12
	Groundfish Closure II: Marblehead north to N.H.	Apr. 1- Jun. 30	CMR 8.12
	Groundfish Closure III: East of Cape Cod	May 1 – May 31	CMR 8.12
	Mass. Bay adjacent to Boston Harbor	May 15 – Nov. 1	CMR 4.11
	Winter Cod Conservation Zone	Dec. 1 – Jan. 31	CMR 8.15
	Spring Cod Conservation Zone	May 1 – June 30	CMR 8.15
PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Striped bass [CMR 6.07] , shad [CMR 4.12] , smelt [Ch.130 sec. 35] , river herring [CMR 6.17] , tuna [CMR 6.04] , more than daily limit of lobsters as established by [CMR 6.26] (must also have a coastal lobster permit), sturgeon [CMR 6.16] , Atlantic salmon [CMR 6.06] , and certain shark species including basking sharks, dusky sharks, sand tiger sharks, and white sharks [CMR 6.37] .		

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FISHERY:	GILLNETTING (Fishing on or near surface)
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PERMIT REQUIRED:		<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
(1)	Commercial Fishermen		
	Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster	\$260	\$520
	Boat 60 - 99 feet	\$195	\$390
	Boat 59 feet or less	\$130	\$260
(2)	Regulated surface gillnet endorsement (no permit required for use of surface gillnet less than 250 square feet)	\$30	\$60
	If certain species are being taken or landed:		
(3)	Species-specific regulated fishery endorsement	\$30	\$60

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	Catch reports required (forms supplied by DMF & available online at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).
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GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesh minimum size: 1 7/8" [CMR 4.14]. • Mesh maximum size: 3 3/4" [CMR 4.14]. • Unlawful to fish more than 300 linear feet of surface gillnets at any one time [CMR 4.14]. • Fishermen setting or fishing surface gillnets shall remain within 200 feet of the net at all times [CMR 4.14]. • Surface gillnets must have a headrope sufficiently buoyant to float at the surface. If any portion of a gillnet when fished is exposed at the water's surface then the net shall be considered a surface gillnet [CMR 4.14]. • Knot-less weak link at the buoy with a breaking strength of 600 lbs. [CMR 12.06]. • Marking [CMR 4.13 & 4.14] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>East end</u> – high flyer and 12" tetrahedral radar reflector. <u>West end</u> – high flyer, flag, and tetrahedral radar reflector. <u>Buoy</u> - permanently and visibly marked or branded with the permit number of the owner and reflective tape. Bullet-shaped buoys with a size of 9 x 16 inches and clearly marked with the letters SGN and the 6-digit permit number of the holder shall be attached to net ends. <u>Buoy line</u> - marked with a four inch green mark (white if rope is same or similar color to green) midway on the buoy line. <u>Headrope</u> – marked at least once every 50 feet with the permit number of the owner. Holders may burn or carve their number into floats attached to the headrope and shall measure at least ½ inch in height; alternatively if permit holders opt to mark the net with synthetic durable material, then the numbers shall be clearly visible and measure at least ¼" in height. • Vessel maximum size: 90 feet registered length [CMR 8.05]. • "Pingers" are required [CMR 12.04] when fishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>September 15 through May 31</u> in Upper Massachusetts Bay and Ipswich Bay from Marblehead to the New Hampshire Border. <u>December 1 through February & April 1 through May 31</u> in the Massachusetts Bay Area and Cape Cod South Area. <p>Pinger requirements do not apply to non-anchored surface gillnets.</p>
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>
	Inshore Restricted Waters	Year-round	<u>CMR 4.02</u>
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	<u>CMR 4.04</u>
	Cape Cod Bay Critical Habitat	Jan. 1 – May 15	<u>CMR 12.04</u>
	Southern New England Inshore Restricted Waters	Jan. 1 – May 15	<u>CMR 4.14</u>
	Gulf of Maine Inshore Restricted Waters	Jan 1 – May 31	<u>CMR 4.14</u>
	North of Cape Cod inside spawning closure line from P'town to N.H.	Feb. 1 – May 31	<u>CMR 8.09</u>
	South of Cape Cod including around Martha's Vineyard & Nantucket	Apr. 1 – Nov. 15	<u>CMR 4.09</u>
	Groundfish Closure III: East of Cape Cod	May 1 - May 31	<u>CMR 8.12</u>
	Winter Cod Conservation Zone	Dec. 1 – Jan. 31	<u>CMR 8.15</u>
	Spring Cod Conservation Zone	May 1 – June 30	<u>CMR 8.15</u>
PROHIBITED SPECIES:	No other species except, menhaden, sea herring, or mackerel may be retained from a surface gillnet.		

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FISHERY:	TRAWLING, PURSE SEINING, or HAUL SEINING with inshore restricted waters regulated fishery endorsement.
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PERMIT REQUIRED:			<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
<i>Note:</i>	(1)	Commercial Fishermen		
		Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster	\$260	\$520
		Boat 60 - 99 feet	\$195	\$390
		Boat 59 feet or less	\$130	\$260
	(2)	Regulated inshore restricted waters permit endorsement <i>No special permit needed to fish with a small bait net less than 250 sq. feet or castnet for baitfish for personal use [CMR 4.02]</i>	\$30	\$60

PERMIT LIMIT:	Moratorium on regulated inshore restricted waters permit endorsements for use by purse seiners; Director may limit the number of regulated inshore restricted waters fishery permit endorsements issued each year for all gear types.
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PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:	The applicant must list - and is limited to – the specific species, gear type and fishing area.
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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	Varies with fishery. Some yearly catch reports required and are available online at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries . Contact DMF for details.
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GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	See permit for specifics
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	See permit for specific locations and times
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PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Only species listed on permit are allowed.
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FISHERY:	HOOK AND LINE (includes Rod and Reel)
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PERMIT REQUIRED:			<u>Resident</u>		<u>Non-Resident</u>
(1)	Commercial Fishermen				
	Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster	\$260		\$520
	Boat 60 - 99 feet	.....	\$195		\$390
	Boat 59 feet or less	.....	\$130		\$260
	Rod & Reel	.....	\$35		\$100
If certain species are being taken or landed:					
(2)	Species-specific regulated fishery endorsement, including groundfish (if vessel has no federal groundfish or monkfish permit)	.....	\$30		\$60

PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:	March 6, 2008 control date, excluding the commercial striped bass fishery – no criteria established to date [322 CMR 7.04] .
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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	Endorsement specific (for example striped bass and fluke permit holders must report annually to DMF), contact DMF for further details.
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GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hook size is restricted when longlining for cod inside the winter flounder spawning closure area from Feb 1 – May 31. Hooks must exceed 11/16” gape or circle hooks must measure at least ½” inside [CMR 8.09]. • Rod & Reel permit holders may not use handlines or longlines. • Maximum vessel size: 90 feet [CMR 8.05].
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04
	Groundfish Closure I: Upper Cape Cod Bay and Mass. Bay (South of Marblehead)	Apr. 1 – May 31 & Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	CMR 8.12
	Groundfish Closure II: Marblehead north to N.H.	Apr. 1 – June 30	CMR 8.12
	Groundfish Closure III: East of Cape Cod	May 1 - 31	CMR 8.12
	Winter flounder nearshore spawning closure from Provincetown to N.H. (exception for line trawling of cod with gear restrictions above).	Feb. 1 – May 31	CMR 8.09

MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
 (as of May 2009)

Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

AREA/SEASON	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>
CLOSURES: (cont'd)	Winter Cod Conservation Zone	Dec. 1 – Jan. 31	CMR 8.15
	Spring Cod Conservation Zone	May 1 – June 30	CMR 8.15
PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Sturgeon [CMR 6.16] , Atlantic salmon [CMR 6.06] , river herring [CMR 6.17] , and certain shark species including basking sharks, dusky sharks, sand tiger sharks, and white sharks [CMR 6.37] , striped bass taken by longline [CMR 6.07] . Commercial take of winter flounder is prohibited from Feb 1 - May 31 in inshore waters where netting is restricted. These areas include bays and estuaries from Provincetown, along the "backside" of Cape Cod, Buzzards Bay and west to Mount Hope Bay [CMR 6.23] . Mount Hope Bay is closed year-round [CMR 6.23] .		

MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
 (as of May 2009)

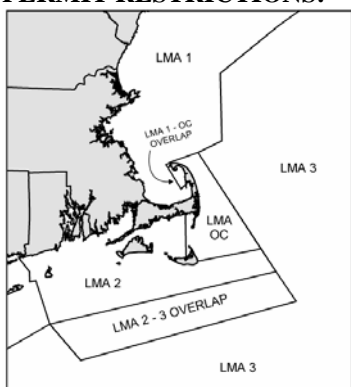
Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

FISHERY:	LOBSTERING commercially with TRAPS. <i>Not including lobstering with a student permit. See other appropriate summaries for details.</i>
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PERMIT REQUIRED:			<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
	(1)	Coastal Lobster	\$260	\$520
If certain species are being taken or landed:				
(2)	Species-specific regulated fishery endorsement	\$30	\$60	

PERMIT LIMIT:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new permits are being issued to lobster commercially in state or federal waters with traps [CMR 7.08]; existing permits are renewable and coastal permits are transferable [CMR 7.03].
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PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishermen must declare which Lobster Conservation Management Area (LCMA) they intend to fish [CMR 7.03]. Multiple LCMA endorsements are prohibited, except by persons with valid federal authorization for LCMA 3 who may additionally receive authorization for either LCMA 1, 2 or Outer Cape Cod. Those fishing in more than one area as designated on their permits shall observe the most restrictive of different regulations for the areas declared [CMR 7.03]. Transfers of coastal permits are prohibited between areas except when transferring to an area under management of an effort control plan. Transfers of permits only allowed between Commonwealth-only permit holders. Area-specific regulations, including actively fished criteria, govern the transfer of coastal permits [CMR 7.03] Night fishing for lobsters is prohibited [Ch. 130 sec.39]. No unloading of lobster Feb 1 – April 30 from 8:00 PM through 6:00 AM [CMR 6.25]
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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	Annual catch reports [Ch.130 sec.38B] ; also, selected lobstermen are required to participate in trip level reporting.
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GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCMA 2 and OCCLMA trap limit based on individual's initial trap allocation [CMR 6.13] and trap allocation transfers [CMR 7.03], not to exceed limit of 800 traps [CMR 6.13] LCMA 1: trap limit of 800 [CMR 6.13] LCMA 3: trap limit based on individual's history as approved by NMFS [CMR 6.13]. Year-specific trap tags required on all traps [CMR 6.31] Unlawful to abandon any gear or for any person to fish, store or abandon fixed fishing gear with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lines floating at the water's surface; Positively buoyant groundline; and Buoy lines comprised of positively buoyant line except the bottom portion of the line which may be a section of floating line, not to exceed 1/3 overall length of the buoy line [CMR 12.03]
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MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
 (as of May 2009)

Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

**GEAR
 RESTRICTIONS
 (cont'd):**

- Trawl maximum length: 2000 feet [\[CMR 4.13\]](#).
- Vessel maximum size: 90 feet registered length [\[CMR 8.05\]](#).
- Use of multiple trap strings (trawls) is prohibited in the waters of Gosnold [\[Ch.130 sec.37\]](#).
- Use of buoyed lobster cars is prohibited except in Inshore Restricted Waters [\[CMR 6.14\]](#).
- Marking:
 - All traps, buoys and lobster cars must bear fisherman's license number not less than ½" in height nor less than 1/8" in thickness or width of line (for purposes of complying with this requirement, wire traps tagged with trap tags in accordance with 322 CMR 6.31 will be considered sufficient) [\[Ch. 130 sec.38\]](#) and [\[CMR 3.07\]](#).
 - Fisherman's buoy colors must be displayed on vessel [\[Ch.130 sec.38A\]](#).
 - Traps require a single 7"x 7" or 5" x 11" buoy; stick is optional [\[CMR 4.13\]](#).
 - Trawls [\[CMR 4.13\]](#): East end (South) - double buoy and one or more 3' sticks.
 - West end (North) - single buoy with 3' stick and flag.
 - Note Boston Harbor exemption.
 - Buoy line fished or authorized to fish in LCMA 1, LCMA 2 or the Outer Cape Cod LCMA shall be marked with a four inch red mark midway on the buoy line. If the color of the rope is the same as or similar to a color code, a white mark may be substituted for that color code. [\[CMR 4.13\]](#).
 - Buoy line fished or authorized to fish in LCMA 3 shall be marked with a four inch black mark midway on the buoy line. If the color of the rope is the same as or similar to a color code, a white mark may be substituted for that color code. [\[CMR 4.13\]](#).
- Degradable 'ghost' panels required [\[CMR 6.02\]](#):
 1. rectangular opening covered by panel at least 3 ¾ x 3 ¾ inches located in outer parlor allowing unobstructed exit of lobsters from trap;
 2. panel to be fastened to trap by either wood lath; cotton, hemp, sisal, or jute twine not greater than 3/16" in diameter; or non-stainless, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than 3/32" in diameter;
 3. door of trap may serve as ghost panel if fastened to trap with material specified above;
 4. escape vent may serve as ghost panel if incorporated into a panel constructed of, or attached to the trap with a material specified above, and upon breakdown of the degradable materials, will create an opening at least 3 3/4" square.
 5. traps constructed entirely or partially of wood shall be considered to be in compliance if constructed of wood lath to the extent that deterioration of wooden component(s) will result in unobstructed opening at least 3 3/4" square.
- Escape vent minimum sizes [\[CMR 6.02\]](#):

<u>LCMA</u>	<u>RECTANGULAR</u>	<u>TWO CIRCULAR</u>
1	1 15/16" x 5 3/4"	2 7/16"
2, 3, & OCC	2" x 5 3/4"	2 5/8"
- 600-lb. breakaway link on buoy line required; 500-lbs. required in Cape Cod Critical Habitat during Jan 1 – May 15, [\[CMR 12.06\]](#).
- Cape Cod Critical Habitat gear restrictions from Jan 1 – May 15 [\[CMR 12.05 & 4.13\]](#):
 1. Single traps prohibited, must be at least 4-trap trawls with two buoy lines or two-trap "doubles" with just one buoy line;
 2. Buoys must be marked with "twin orange markers";
- Unlawful to mark fixed gear as required in [\[CMR 4.13\]](#) if traps are not properly rigged with features required in [\[CMR 12.05\]](#).

MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
 (as of May 2009)

Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04
	Greater New Bedford Harbor north of a line from Ricketson's Point (Dartmouth) to Wilbur Point (Fairhaven)	Year-round	CMR 6.29
	Outer Cape Trap Haul-out Period	Jan 15 – Mar 15	CMR 6.02
	Fixed Gear Free Zone	Sep 1 – Oct 31	CMR 8.14

MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SIZE LIMITS [CMR 6.01]:		
<u>LCMA</u>	<u>MINIMUM SIZE</u>	<u>MAXIMUM SIZE</u>
1	3 ¼"	5"
2	3 ¾"	5 ¼"
3	3 ½"	7" from 7/1/08 – 6/30/09 6 7/8" from 7/1/09 – 6/30/10 6 ¾" from 7/1/10 and beyond
OCC	3 ¾"	N/A

V-NOTCH REGULATIONS		
<u>LCMA</u>	<u>REQUIREMENT TO V-NOTCH FEMALE LOBSTER</u>	<u>RULES PERTAINING TO POSSESSION OF A V-NOTCHED FEMALE LOBSTER</u>
1	Commercial fishermen fishing in LCMA 1 are required to carve a v-shaped notch in any egg-bearing female lobster at least ¼" and not greater than a ½" in depth and tapering to a sharp point in the flipper next to and to the right of the center flipper as viewed from the rear of the female lobster when underside is down.	"ZERO TOLERANCE" applies. Fishermen may not possess a female lobster with a "v-shaped notch" of any size with or without setal hairs on the flipper right of the center flipper.
2	No requirement	Commercial fisherman fishing or authorized to fish in LCMA 2 may not possess any female lobster that bears a notch or indentation in the base of the flipper that is at least as deep as 1/8 inch, with or without setal hairs.
3	Commercial fishermen fishing in LCMA 3 above 42°30' are required to carve a v-shaped notch in any egg-bearing female lobster at least 1/8" in depth in the flipper next to and to the right of the center flipper as viewed from the rear of the female lobster when underside is down.	Commercial fishermen fishing or authorized to fish in LCMA 3 may not possess any female lobster that bears a notch or indentation in the base of the flipper that is at least as deep as 1/8 inch, with or without setal hairs.
Outer Cape Cod	No requirement	Commercial fishermen fishing or authorized to fish in OCCLCMA and dealers may not possess a female lobster if it possesses a "v-shaped notch" defined as a straight-sided triangular cut, without setal hairs, at least ¼" in depth and tapering to a point.

PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Edible crabs from Jan 1 - April 30 [Ch. 130 sec.40] , egg-bearing lobsters [Ch.130 sec.41A] , V-notched female lobsters [CMR 6.02] , river herring [CMR 6.17] . The catch of finfish and conch must not exceed the catch of lobster by weight, else a regulated fish pot fishery permit is required [CMR 7.09] .
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MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
 (as of May 2009)

Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

FISHERY:	LOBSTERING commercially with TRAPS - using STUDENT lobster permit
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PERMIT REQUIRED:			<u>Resident</u>		<u>Non-Resident</u>
	(1) Student Lobster	\$65		\$130

PERMIT LIMIT: Permits are granted **only** to full-time students over the age of 12.

PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:

- Fishermen must declare which Lobster Conservation Management Area (LCMA) they intend to fish. [\[CMR 7.03\]](#)
- Multiple LCMA endorsements are prohibited [\[CMR 7.03\]](#)
- Permit holder not allowed to tend traps authorized under recreational permit (e.g. another family member’s traps).
- Night fishing for lobsters is prohibited [\[Ch. 130 sec.39\]](#).
- Permit valid from June 15th – September 15th only [\[MGL c.130 s.38\]](#).

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Annual catch reports [\[Ch.130 sec.38B\]](#).

GEAR RESTRICTIONS:

- No more than 25 traps may be set [\[Ch. 130 sec.38\]](#).
- Year-specific trap tags required on all traps [\[CMR 6.31\]](#)
- Unlawful to abandon any gear or for any person to fish, store or abandon fixed fishing gear with:
 1. Lines floating at the water’s surface;
 2. Positively buoyant groundline; and
 3. Buoy lines comprised of positively buoyant line except the bottom portion of the line which may be a section of floating line, not to exceed 1/3 overall length of the buoy line [\[CMR 12.03\]](#)
- Trawl maximum length: 2000 feet [\[CMR 4.13\]](#).
- Vessel maximum size: 90 feet registered length [\[CMR 8.05\]](#).
- Use of multiple trap strings (trawls) is prohibited in the waters of Gosnold [\[Ch.130 sec.37\]](#).
- Use of buoyed lobster cars is prohibited except in Inshore Restricted Waters [\[CMR 6.14\]](#).
- Escape vent minimum sizes [\[CMR 6.02\]](#):

<u>LCMA</u>	<u>RECTANGULAR</u>	<u>TWO CIRCULAR</u>
1	1 15/16" x 5 3/4"	2 7/16"
2 & OCC	2" x 5 3/4"	2 5/8"
- 600-lb. breakaway link on buoy line required; 500-lbs. required in Cape Cod Critical Habitat during Jan 1 – May 15, [\[CMR 12.06\]](#).
- Cape Cod Critical Habitat gear restrictions from Jan 1 – May 15 [\[CMR 12.05 & 4.13\]](#):
 1. Single traps prohibited, must be at least 4-trap trawls with two buoy lines or two-trap “doubles” with just one buoy line; and
 2. Buoys must be marked with “twin orange markers”.

MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
 (as of May 2009)

Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

GEAR RESTRICTIONS (cont'd):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking: <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><u>All traps, buoys and lobster cars</u> must bear fisherman's license number not less than ½" in height nor less than 1/8" in thickness or width of line (for purposes of complying with this requirement, wire traps tagged with trap tags in accordance with 322 CMR 6.31 will be considered sufficient) [Ch. 130 sec.38 and CMR 3.07]. <u>Fisherman's buoy colors</u> must be displayed on vessel [Ch.130 sec.38A]. <u>Buoy line fished or authorized to fish in LCMA 1, LCMA 2 or the Outer Cape Cod LCMA</u> shall be marked with a four inch red mark midway on the buoy line. If the color of the rope is the same as or similar to a color code, a white mark may be substituted for that color code. [CMR 4.13]. <u>Buoy line fished or authorized to fish in LCMA 3</u> shall be marked with a four inch black mark midway on the buoy line. If the color of the rope is the same as/or similar to a color code, a white mark may be substituted for that color code [CMR 4.13]. <u>Traps</u> require a single 7"x 7" or 5" x 11" buoy; stick is optional [CMR 4.13]. <u>Trawls</u> [CMR 4.13]: <u>East end</u> (South) - double buoy and one or more 3' sticks. <u>West end</u> (North) - single buoy with 3' stick and flag. Note Boston Harbor exemption.</p> • Degradable 'ghost' panels required [CMR 6.02]: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. rectangular opening covered by panel at least 3 ¾ x 3 ¾ inches located in outer parlor allowing unobstructed exit of lobsters from trap; 2. panel to be fastened to trap by either wood lath; cotton, hemp, sisal, or jute twine not greater than 3/16" in diameter; or non-stainless, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than 3/32" in diameter; 3. door of trap may serve as ghost panel if fastened to trap with material specified above; 4. escape vent may serve as ghost panel if incorporated into a panel constructed of, or attached to the trap with a material specified above, and upon breakdown of the degradable materials, will create an opening at least 3 3/4" square. 5. traps constructed entirely or partially of wood shall be considered to be in compliance if constructed of wood lath to the extent that deterioration of wooden component(s) will result in unobstructed opening at least 3 3/4" square.
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04
	Greater New Bedford Harbor north of a line from Ricketson's Point (Dartmouth) to Wilbur Point (Fairhaven)	Year-round	CMR 6.29
	All waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth	Sep. 16 – Jun. 14	MGL c.130 sec.38

MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
 (as of May 2009)

Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Egg-bearing lobsters [Ch.130 sec.41A] , v-notched female lobsters [CMR 6.02(3)] , Atlantic salmon [CMR 6.06] , river herring [CMR 6.17] . Also it is prohibited to possess a female lobster that is mutilated in a manner that could hide, obscure or obliterate a v-shaped notch.	
MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SIZE LIMITS [CMR 6.01]:		
<u>LCMA</u>	<u>MINIMUM SIZE</u>	<u>MAXIMUM SIZE</u>
1	3 ¼"	5"
2	3 ⅜"	5 ¼"
OCC	3 ⅜"	N/A

V-NOTCH REGULATIONS		
<u>LCMA</u>	<u>REQUIREMENT TO V-NOTCH FEMALE LOBSTER</u>	<u>RULES PERTAINING TO POSSESSION OF A V-NOTCHED FEMALE LOBSTER</u>
1	Commercial fishermen fishing in LCMA 1 required to carve v-shaped notch in any egg-bearing female lobster at least ¼" and not greater than a ½" in depth and tapering to sharp point in the flipper next to and to the right of the center flipper as viewed from the rear of the female lobster when underside is down.	"ZERO TOLERANCE" applies. Fishermen may not possess a female lobster with a "v-shaped notch" of any size with or without setal hairs on the flipper right of the center flipper.
2	No requirement	Commercial fisherman fishing or authorized to fish in LCMA 2 may not possess any female lobster that bears a notch or indentation in the base of the flipper that is at least as deep as 1/8 inch, with or without setal hairs.
Outer Cape Cod	No requirement	Commercial fishermen fishing or authorized to fish in OCCLCMA may not possess female lobster if it possesses a "v-shaped notch" defined as straight-sided triangular cut, without setal hairs, at least ¼" in depth and tapering to point.

MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
 (as of May 2009)

Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

FISHERY:	LOBSTERING commercially with SCUBA in state waters.
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PERMIT REQUIRED:			<u>Resident</u>		<u>Non-Resident</u>
(1)	Coastal Lobster	\$260		\$520

PERMIT LIMIT: • No new permits are being issued to lobster commercially in state or federal waters with traps [\[CMR 7.08\]](#); existing permits are renewable and transferable [\[CMR 7.03\]](#).

PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:

- Fishermen must declare which Lobster Conservation Management Area (LCMA) they intend to fish [\[CMR 7.03\]](#).
- Multiple LCMA endorsements are prohibited, except by persons with valid federal authorization for LCMA 3 who may additionally receive authorization for either LCMA 1, 2 or Outer Cape Cod. Those fishing in more than one area as designated on their permits shall observe the most restrictive of different regulations for the areas declared [\[CMR 7.03\]](#).
- Transfers of coastal permits are prohibited between areas except when transferring to an area under management of an effort control plan.
- Area-specific regulations, including actively fished criteria, govern the transfer of coastal permits [\[CMR 7.03\]](#)
- Night fishing for lobsters is prohibited [\[Ch. 130 sec.39\]](#).
- No unloading of lobster Feb 1 - April 30 from 8:00 PM through 6:00 AM ([\[CMR 6.25\]](#))

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Annual catch reports [\[Ch.130 sec.38B\]](#); also, selected lobstermen are required to participate in trip level reporting.

GEAR RESTRICTIONS: Scuba tank and floating marker must display permit numbers. Permit numbers shall be not less than 3 inches in height nor less than ½ inch in thickness or width of line [\[Ch. 130 sec. 38A and CMR 3.07\]](#).

AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04
	Greater New Bedford Harbor north of a line from Ricketson’s Point (Dartmouth) to Wilbur Point (Fairhaven)	Year-round	CMR 6.29

PROHIBITED SPECIES: Edible crabs from Jan 1 - April 30 [\[Ch. 130 sec.40\]](#), egg-bearing lobsters [\[Ch.130 sec.41A\]](#), v-notched female lobsters [\[CMR 6.02\]](#).

MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SIZE LIMITS [CMR 6.01]:		
<u>LCMA</u>	<u>MINIMUM SIZE</u>	<u>MAXIMUM SIZE</u>
1	3 ¼”	5”
2	3 ¾”	5 ¼”
OCC	3 ¾”	N/A

MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
 (as of May 2009)

Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

V-NOTCH REGULATIONS		
<u>LCMA</u>	<u>REQUIREMENT TO V-NOTCH FEMALE LOBSTER</u>	<u>RULES PERTAINING TO POSSESSION OF A V-NOTCHED FEMALE LOBSTER</u>
1	Commercial fishermen fishing in LCMA 1 are required to carve a v-shaped notch in any egg-bearing female lobster at least ¼” and not greater than a ½” in depth and tapering to a sharp point in the flipper next to and to the right of the center flipper as viewed from the rear of the female lobster when underside is down.	“ZERO TOLERANCE” applies. Fishermen may not possess a female lobster with a “v-shaped notch” of any size with or without setal hairs on the flipper right of the center flipper.
2	No requirement	Commercial fisherman fishing or authorized to fish in LCMA 2 may not possess any female lobster that bears a notch or indentation in the base of the flipper that is at least as deep as 1/8 inch, with or without setal hairs.
Outer Cape Cod	No requirement	Commercial fishermen fishing or authorized to fish in OCCLCMA and dealers may not possess a female lobster if it possesses a “v-shaped notch” defined as a straight-sided triangular cut, without setal hairs, at least ¼” in depth and tapering to a point.

MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
 (as of May 2009)

Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

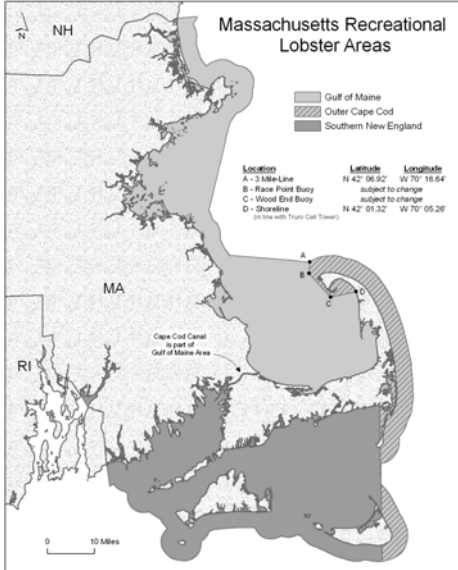
FISHERY:	LOBSTERING recreationally with TRAPS or SCUBA using the Non-Commercial Lobster Permit.
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PERMIT REQUIRED:			<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
(1)	Non-Commercial Lobster	\$40	\$60

PERMIT LIMIT: None.

- PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:**
- Sale of lobsters and crabs prohibited [\[Ch. 130 sec. 38\]](#).
 - 15 lobster possession limit [\[322 CMR 6.02\]](#).
 - Fishing for lobsters at night prohibited [\[Ch. 130 sec. 39\]](#).
 - No landing of lobster Feb 1 – Apr 30 from 8:00 PM through 6:00 AM [\[CMR 6.25\]](#)
 - Non-residents must own \$5,000 in MA real estate and temporarily reside in a MA coastal town to qualify for a permit [\[Ch. 130 sec. 38\]](#).
 - Non-residents may only use the permit during Jun – Sep [\[Ch. 130 sec. 38\]](#).

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Annual Catch Report [\[Ch. 130 sec.38b\]](#).

GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 10 traps may be set [Ch. 130 sec. 38]. • Escape vent required in trap's parlor section and degradable 'ghost' panels required. Min. size requirements based on specific area fished [CMR 6.02]: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 45%;"><u>Recreational Lobster Area</u></td> <td style="width: 55%;"><u>Escape Vent Minimum Size</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gulf of Maine</td> <td>1-15/16" x 5-3/4" or two circular vents at least 2-7/16" diameter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outer Cape Cod & Southern New England</td> <td>2" x 5-3/4" or two circular vents at least 2 5/8" diameter</td> </tr> </table>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trawl maximum length: 2000 feet [CMR 4.13]. • Vessel maximum size: 90 feet registered length [CMR 8.05]. • Use of multiple trap strings (trawls) is prohibited in the waters of Gosnold [Ch.130 sec.37]. • Use of buoyed lobster cars is prohibited except in Inshore Restricted Waters [CMR 6.14]. 	<u>Recreational Lobster Area</u>	<u>Escape Vent Minimum Size</u>	Gulf of Maine	1-15/16" x 5-3/4" or two circular vents at least 2-7/16" diameter	Outer Cape Cod & Southern New England	2" x 5-3/4" or two circular vents at least 2 5/8" diameter
<u>Recreational Lobster Area</u>	<u>Escape Vent Minimum Size</u>						
Gulf of Maine	1-15/16" x 5-3/4" or two circular vents at least 2-7/16" diameter						
Outer Cape Cod & Southern New England	2" x 5-3/4" or two circular vents at least 2 5/8" diameter						

GEAR RESTRICTIONS (cont'd):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Marking:</u> <u>All traps and lobster cars</u> must bear the fisherman's license number. All buoys must be marked with the letter "N" prior to the 4-digit permit # and a dash with a single digit (0-9) indicating the sequential trap number [Ch. 130 sec.38 and CMR 3.07].. <u>Fisherman's buoy colors</u> must be displayed on vessel [Ch.130 sec.38A]. <u>Beginning January 1, 2010 buoy line</u> shall be marked with a four inch red
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MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
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Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

	<p>mark midway on the buoy line. If the color of the rope is the same as or similar to a color code, a white mark may be substituted for that color code. [CMR 4.13].</p> <p><u>Traps</u> require a single 7"x 7" or 5" x 11" buoy; stick is optional [CMR 4.13].</p> <p><u>Trawls</u> [CMR 4.13]:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>East end</u> (South) - double buoy and one or more 3' sticks.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>West end</u> (North) - single buoy with 3' stick and flag.</p> <p>Note Boston Harbor exemption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradable 'ghost' panels required [CMR 6.02]. • Fisherman's buoy color scheme must be displayed on vessel [Ch.130 sec.38A]. • Unlawful to abandon gear or for any person to fish, store or abandon fixed fishing gear with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lines floating at the water's surface; 2. Positively buoyant groundline; and 3. Buoy lines comprised of positively buoyant line except the bottom portion of the line which may be a section of floating line, not to exceed 1/3 overall length of the buoy line [CMR 12.03] • Beginning January 1, 2010, 600-lb. breakaway link on buoy line required; 500-lbs. required in Cape Cod Critical Habitat during Jan 1 – May 15, [CMR 12.06]. • Cape Cod Critical Habitat gear restrictions from Jan 1 – May 15 [CMR 12.05 & 4.13]: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single traps prohibited, must be at least 4-trap trawls with two buoy lines or two-trap "doubles" with just one buoy line; 2. Buoys must be marked with "twin orange markers"; • Unlawful to mark fixed gear as required in [CMR 4.13] if traps are not properly rigged with features required in [CMR 12.05];
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04
	Greater New Bedford Harbor north of a line from Ricketson's Point (Dartmouth) to Wilbur Point (Fairhaven)	Year-round	CMR 6.29
	Outer Cape Trap Haul-out Period	Jan 15 – Mar 15	CMR 6.02
	Eastern portion of the Upper Cape Cod Bay Whiting Area	Oct 1-Nov 20	CMR 8.14

PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Edible crabs from Jan 1 - April 30 [Ch. 130 sec.40] , egg-bearing lobsters [Ch.130 sec.41A] , v-notched female lobsters [CMR 6.02] .
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MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SIZE LIMITS [CMR 6.01] :		
<u>RECREATIONAL LOBSTER AREA</u>	<u>MINIMUM SIZE</u>	<u>MAXIMUM SIZE</u>
Gulf of Maine	3 1/4"	5"
Outer Cape Cod	3 3/8"	
Southern New England	3 3/8"	5 1/4"

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V-NOTCH REGULATIONS		
<u>RECREATIONAL LOBSTER AREA</u>	<u>REQUIREMENT TO V-NOTCH FEMALE LOBSTER</u>	<u>RULES PERTAINING TO POSSESSION OF A V-NOTCHED FEMALE LOBSTER</u>
Gulf of Maine	No requirement	“ZERO TOLERANCE” applies. Non-commercial fishermen may not possess a female lobster with a “v-shaped notch” of any size with or without setal hairs on the flipper right of the center flipper.
Outer Cape Cod	No requirement	Non-commercial fisherman fishing in the Outer Cape Cod RLA may not possess a female lobster if it possesses a “v-shaped notch” defined as a straight-sided triangular cut, without setal hairs, at least ¼” in depth and tapering to a point.
Southern New England	No requirement	Non-commercial fisherman fishing or authorized to fish in the Outer Cape Cod RLA may not possess any female lobster that bears a notch or indentation in the base of the flipper that is at least as deep as 1/8 inch, with or without setal hairs.

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FISHERY:	MOBILE GEAR: Mid-water Trawls, Otter and Beam Trawls, Scallop Dredges, Bottom Pair Trawls, Scottish/Danish Seines and Pair Seines. <i>(With NO Regulated fishery endorsements for small mesh fishing, north shore mobile gear, or inshore net; see separate sheets.)</i>
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PERMIT REQUIRED:			<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
	(1)	Commercial Fishermen		
		Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster	\$260	\$520
		Boat 60 - 99 feet	\$195	\$390
		Boat 59 feet or less	\$130	\$260
	(2)	Coastal Access Permit Endorsement	\$30	\$60
	If certain species are being taken or landed:			
(3)	Species-specific regulated fishery endorsement, including groundfish (if vessel has no federal groundfish or monkfish permit)	\$30	\$60	

PERMIT LIMIT:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Access Permits limited to those who held permit in 1994 [CMR 7.05]. • Coastal Access Permits are transferable [CMR 7.05 & 7.06]
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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	None.
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GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesh minimum size [CMR 8.07] (See chart for boundaries): <u>North & east of Cape Cod</u> – 6½” in codend and 6” in body of net; <u>South of Cape Cod</u> – 6½” in codend and 6” in body of net Nov. 1 – Apr. 22; Note: No mesh less than 6½” in codend and 6” in body of net shall be possessed by vessels: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. during Jun. 10 – Apr. 22; and 2. during Apr. 23 – Jun. 9 when more than a total of 100 lbs. of winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, summer flounder (fluke), or windowpane flounder, in any combination, is in possession. • Vessel maximum size: 72 feet length overall except as noted in [CMR 7.05]. • Net rollers: 12” maximum diameter [CMR 8.04]. • Scallop dredge - Combined maximum 10-foot width in possession [CMR 4.10] - 3 ½” minimum ring size [CMR 4.10]. • Net strengtheners: Alterations which obstruct or diminish meshes prohibited, including the use of “twisted mesh” [CMR 8.07].
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>
	All state waters closed to night mobile gear fishing	Year-round	CMR 8.03
	Inshore Restricted Waters	Year-round	CMR 4.02
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04

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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES (cont'd):	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>
	North Shore state waters (Broad Sound to New Hampshire)	Year-round	CMR 3.04
	North of Cape Cod inside spawning closure line from P'town to N.H.	Feb. 1 - May 31	CMR 8.09
	Area 3 from Plymouth to Hull	Apr. 1 – Oct. 31	CMR 3.04
	Area 4 off outer Boston Harbor	Apr. 1 – Dec. 31	CMR 3.04
	Nantucket Sound (1A) (Off Nantucket Island)	Apr. 1 – Apr. 30	CMR 3.04
	Nantucket Island (1B) (Great Pt. to Nant. Harbor)	Apr. 1 – Apr. 30 & Jun. 1 – Sep. 15	CMR 3.04
	Groundfish Closure I: Upper Cape Cod Bay and Mass. Bay (South of Marblehead)	Apr. 1 – May 31 & Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	CMR 8.12
	Groundfish Closure II: Marblehead north to N.H.	Apr. 1 – Jun. 30	CMR 8.12
	Succonnessett Pt., Mashpee to Nobska Pt., Falmouth (1/4 mile)	Apr. 23 - May 31	CMR 3.04
	Cape Cod backside (2A): from Nauset Light around Monomoy to Succonnessett Pt., Mashpee	May 1 – Oct. 31	CMR 3.04
	Area 2B from Provincetown to Plymouth	May 1 – Oct. 31	CMR 3.04
	Nobska Pt., Falmouth to Cuttyhunk (1/4 mile)	May 1 – Oct. 31	CMR 3.04
	Groundfish Closure III: East of Cape Cod	May 1 – May 31	CMR 8.12
	Succonnessett Pt., Mashpee to Nobska Pt., Falmouth (½ mile)	Jun. 1 – Oct. 31	CMR 3.04
	Winter Cod Conservation Zone	Dec. 1 – Jan. 31	CMR 8.15
	Spring Cod Conservation Zone	May 1 – June 30	CMR 8.15
PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Lobster [Ch. 130 sec. 37] - note [CMR 6.26] which restricts mobile gear fishermen seen fishing in state waters to only 100 lobsters (taken from federal waters). Striped bass [CMR 6.07] , shad [CMR 4.12] , smelt [Ch. 130 sec.35] , river herring [CMR 6.17] , tuna [CMR 6.04] , sturgeon [CMR 6.16] , Atlantic salmon [CMR 6.06] , and certain shark species including basking sharks, dusky sharks, sand tiger sharks, and white sharks [CMR 6.37] .		

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FISHERY:	MOBILE GEAR: Otter and Beam Trawls, Bottom Pair Trawls, Scottish/Danish Seines and Pair Seines.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With Regulated fishery endorsements for the following (permits required for each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) North Shore Mobile Gear: access to Areas 5 & 6 (B) Small-mesh fishing for whiting (C) Small-mesh fishing for squid

PERMIT REQUIRED:			<u>Resident</u>		<u>Non-Resident</u>
	(1)	Commercial Fishermen			
		Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster	\$260		\$520
		Boat 60 - 99 feet	\$195		\$390
		Boat 59 feet or less	\$130		\$260
	(2)	Coastal Access Permit Endorsement	\$30		\$60
	If certain species are being taken or landed (CAP can be endorsed for one of the regulated fisheries at no charge, each additional endorsement costs):				
(3)	Species-specific regulated fishery endorsement	\$30		\$60	

(A)	North Shore Mobile Gear Endorsement
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	Annual reports of monthly catch required. Catch reports are available online at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries .

GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesh minimum size: 6" diamond or 6½" square unless use of smaller mesh is permitted. See (B) Small mesh permits. • Trawl sweep (footrope) maximum length: 80 feet [CMR 3.04]. • Vessel maximum size: 72 feet length overall except as noted in [CMR 7.05]. • No rollers: Only chain, wire or disk sweeps allowed [CMR 3.04].
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION
	All state waters closed to night mobile gear fishing	Year-round	CMR 8.03
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04
	When permitted to fish in areas 5 & 6 the following closures apply:		
	Area 5 off Rockport	Apr. 1 – Jun 14 & Oct. 1 – Jan. 31	CMR 3.04
	Area 6 from Rockport to New Hampshire	Apr. 1 – Dec. 14	CMR 3.04

PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Lobsters [CMR 3.04] , sturgeon [CMR 6.16] , Atlantic salmon [CMR 6.06] , striped bass [CMR 6.07] , shad [MGL c.130 s100C] , smelt [MGL c.130 s35] , river herring [CMR 6.17] , and certain shark species including basking sharks, dusky sharks, sand tiger sharks, and white sharks [CMR 6.37] .
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(B)	Small-Mesh Endorsement for Whiting:
PERMIT LIMIT:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whiting permit valid during Sep 1 – Nov 20 in upper Cape Cod Bay Whiting Area [CMR 8.14] and only September 1 - 30, in Area 5 off Cape Ann.
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	Catch reports may be required and are available online at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries . Contact DMF for details.

GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	Upper Cape Cod Whiting Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mesh Minimum Size: 2 1/2" Vessel Maximum Size: 72 feet length overall except as noted in [CMR 7.05]. Groundgear: Raised footrope trawl required; also required for September in Cape Ann Whiting Area [CMR 8.14].
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION
	Upper Cape Cod Bay Whiting Area	Fishing allowed only during Sep. 1 – Nov. 20.	CMR 8.14
	Cape Ann Whiting Area	Fishing allowed only during Sep. 1 – Sep. 30	CMR 8.07

PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Regulated groundfish species (types of flounders, cod, haddock, or pollock) unless authorized by Director [CMR 8.07] , sturgeon [CMR 6.16] , Atlantic salmon [CMR 6.06] , [CMR 4.04] , river herring [CMR 6.17] , striped bass [CMR 6.07] , shad [MGL c.130 s100C] , smelt [MGL c.130 s35] , lobster [CMR 6.26] , and certain shark species including basking sharks, dusky sharks, sand tiger sharks, and white sharks [CMR 6.37] .
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(C)	Small-Mesh Permits for Squid:
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GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mesh Minimum Size: May be established as permit condition. Vessel Maximum Size: 72 feet length overall [CMR 7.05]. Net Rollers: 12" diameter [CMR 8.04].
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION
	Commonwealth waters south of Cape Cod	Apr. 23 – Jun. 9	CMR 8.07
	All state waters closed to night fishing	Year-round	CMR 8.03
	Inshore Restricted Waters	Year-round	CMR 4.02
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04
	Nantucket Sound (1A) (Off Nantucket Island)	Apr. 1 – Apr. 30	CMR 3.04
	Nantucket Island (1B) (Great Pt. to Nant. Harbor)	Apr. 1 – Apr. 30 & Jun. 1 – Sep. 15	CMR 3.04
	Succonessett Pt., Mashpee to Nobska Pt., Falmouth (1/4 mile)	Apr. 23 - May 31	CMR 3.04

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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES (cont'd):	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION
	Cape Cod backside (2A): from Nauset Light around Monomoy to Succunnessett Pt., Mashpee	May 1 – Oct. 31	CMR 3.04
	Nobska Pt., Falmouth to Cuttyhunk (1/4 mile)	May 1 – Oct. 31	CMR 3.04
	Succunnessett Pt., Mashpee to Nobska Pt., Falmouth (½ mile)	Jun. 1 – Oct. 31	CMR 3.04
PROHIBITED SPECIES:	May not exceed total of 100 lbs. of winter flounders, yellowtail flounder, fluke, or windowpane flounder, in any combination when using mesh size less than 6 ½” in the cod end (6” throughout the remainder of the net [CMR 8.07] , Atlantic salmon [CMR 6.06] , river herring [CMR 6.17] , striped bass [CMR 6.07] , shad [MGL c.130 s100C] , smelt [MGL c.130 s35] , lobster [CMR 6.26] , and certain shark species including basking sharks, dusky sharks, sand tiger sharks, and white sharks [CMR 6.37] .		

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Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

FISHERY:	NORTHERN SHRIMP: Small-mesh Fishing in Federal Waters
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PERMIT REQUIRED:			<u>Resident</u>		<u>Non-Resident</u>
(1)	Commercial Fishermen				
	Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster	\$260		\$520
	Boat 60 - 99 feet	.....	\$195		\$390
	Boat 59 feet or less	.....	\$130		\$260
(2)	Northern Shrimp regulated fishery endorsement	.....	\$30		\$60

GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codend Mesh Minimum Size: 1 3/4" [322 CMR 5.05]. • Nordmore grate (single or double) or other approved finfish excluder device required [CMR 5.05 & 5.06]. • Maximum distance between trawl doors and trawl wings, including ground cables, bridles, etc. shall not exceed 15 fathoms. Bottom legs bare wire or chain [CMR 5.05]. • Chafing gear and cod-end net strengtheners now allowed. <p><i>Other restrictions may apply. Shrimp regulations are amended by the states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts each fall for this winter/spring fishery. Contact DMF for details.</i></p>
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION
	All state waters	Year-round	CMR 8.07
	Federal waters	May 1 – November 30	CMR 8.07 CMR 5.04

PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Regulated groundfish species bycatch [CMR 5.06 & 5.02] , striped bass [CMR 6.07] , shad [CMR 4.12] , smelt [Ch. 130 sec. 35] tuna [CMR 6.04] , sturgeon [CMR 6.16] , Atlantic salmon [CMR 6.06] , river herring [CMR 6.17] , and certain shark species including basking sharks, dusky sharks, sand tiger sharks, and white sharks [CMR 6.37] .
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FISHERY:	POTTING for SEA BASS
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PERMIT REQUIRED:		<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
(1)	Commercial Fishermen		
	Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster	\$260	\$520
	Boat 60 - 99 feet	\$195	\$390
	Boat 59 feet or less	\$130	\$260
(2)	Regulated black sea bass fish pot endorsement	\$30	\$60
If certain species are being taken or landed			
(3)	Species-specific regulated fishery endorsement.	\$30	\$60

PERMIT LIMIT:	Limited entry [CMR 7.09] . Permits are transferable. Fishermen who possess Coastal Lobster permit may take finfish in their traps as long as the weight of fish and conch does not exceed the weight of lobster [CMR 6.12] .
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PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:	Night fishing (½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise) is prohibited [CMR 6.15] .
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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	Annual catch reports required (forms supplied by DMF, available online at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).
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GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year specific pot tag with permit number must be attached to pot’s cross member. • Pot Limit of 200 combined sea bass and scup, or 350 if two permit holders fish from the same vessel [CMR 6.15]. • Two unobstructed escape vents or openings in the parlor section measuring at least 2 1/2” in diameter, two inches square, or 1 3/8” by 5 3/4” required [CMR 6.12]. • All buoys and pots must bear fisherman’s permit number [CMR 6.12]. • Use of floating line at the surface prohibited [CMR 12.03]. • Positively buoyant groundline prohibited [CMR 12.03]. • Buoy lines comprised of positively buoyant line except the bottom portion of the line which may be a section of floating line, not to exceed 1/3 overall length of the buoy line [CMR 12.03] • All fish traps require ghost panel [CMR 6.12]. • Trawl maximum length: 2000 feet [CMR 4.13]. • Vessel maximum size: 90 feet registered length [CMR 8.05]. • All vessels must display buoy color scheme [CMR 6.12]. • Marking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>All pots, buoys and holding cars</u> must bear the fisherman's license number [Ch. 130 sec.38 and CMR 3.07]. <u>Fisherman's buoy colors</u> must be displayed on vessel [Ch.130 sec.38A]. <u>Buoy line</u> shall be marked with a four inch red mark midway on the buoy line. If the color of the rope is the same as or similar to a color code, a white mark may be substituted for that color code. [CMR 4.13]. <u>Pots</u> require a single 7"x 7" or 5" x 11" buoy; stick is optional [CMR 4.13]. <u>Trawls</u> [CMR 4.13]: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>East end</u> (South) - double buoy and one or more 3' sticks. <u>West end</u> (North) - single buoy with 3' stick and flag. <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Note Boston Harbor exemption.</p>
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AREA/SEASON	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION
CLOSURES:	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04
PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Edible crabs from January 1- April 30 [Ch. 130 sec.40] , lobster (a commercial lobster permit is needed to take lobster) [CMR 7.01] , Atlantic salmon [CMR 6.06] , and river herring [CMR 6.17] .		

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FISHERY:	POTTING for Conch, Scup, or other species (excluding SEA BASS)
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PERMIT REQUIRED:			<u>Resident</u>		<u>Non-Resident</u>
(1)	Commercial Fishermen				
	Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster		\$260		\$520
	Boat 60 - 99 feet		\$195		\$390
	Boat 59 feet or less		\$130		\$260
	or				
	Shellfish (conch potting only)		\$40		\$80
	(2)	Regulated conch and scup fish pot endorsements		\$30		$60
If certain species are being taken or landed:					
(3)	Species-specific regulated fishery endorsement		\$30		\$60

PERMIT LIMIT:	Limited entry [CMR 7.09] . Permits are transferable. Fishermen who possess Coastal Lobster permit may take finfish in their pots as long as the weight of fish and conch does not exceed the weight of lobster [CMR 6.12] .
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PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conch pot fishery closed from Dec. 15 - April 14 [CMR 6.12]. • All conchs must be landed whole in the shell [CMR 6.21]
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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	Pot fishermen must submit catch reports annually. Available online at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries .
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GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year specific trap tag with permit number must be attached to pot's cross member. • Pot Limit of 200 conch pots; 50 scup pots [CMR 6.15]. • Conch pots defined as lacking side heads or horizontal laths [CMR 6.12] • All buoys and pots must bear fisherman's permit number [CMR 6.12]. • Marking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>All pots, buoys and holding cars</u> must bear the fisherman's license number [Ch. 130 sec.38 and CMR 3.07]. <u>Fisherman's buoy colors</u> must be displayed on vessel [Ch.130 sec.38A]. <u>Buoy line</u> shall be marked with four inch red mark midway on buoy line. If rope is same/similar color to color code, white mark may be substituted [CMR 4.13]. <u>Pots</u> require a single 7" x 7" or 5" x 11" buoy; stick is optional [CMR 4.13]. <u>Trawls</u> [CMR 4.13] (Note Boston Harbor exemption): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>East end</u> (South) - double buoy and one or more 3' sticks. <u>West end</u> (North) - single buoy with 3' stick and flag. • All fish pots require accepted ghost panel [CMR 6.12]. • Two unobstructed escape vents or openings in the parlor section measuring at least 3.1" in diameter or 2.25" square required [CMR 6.12]. • Trawl maximum length: 2000 feet [CMR 4.13]. • Vessel maximum size: 90 feet registered length [CMR 8.05]. • All vessels must display buoy color scheme [CMR 6.12]. • Use of floating line at the surface prohibited [CMR 12.03]. • Positively buoyant groundline prohibited [CMR 12.03]. • Positively buoyant buoy lines (bottom portion of the line may be a section of floating line, not to exceed 1/3 overall length of the buoy line [CMR 12.03].
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AREA/SEASON	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>
CLOSURES:	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04
PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Edible crabs from Jan 1 - April 30 [Ch. 130 sec.40] , lobster (commercial lobster permit needed) [CMR 7.01] , river herring [CMR 6.17] , black sea bass (black sea pass pot permit needed) [CMR 7.01] .		

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FISHERY:	PURSE SEINING for SEA HERRING or MENHADEN.
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PERMIT REQUIRED:		<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
(1)	Commercial Fishermen		
	Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster	\$260	\$520
	Boat 60 - 99 feet	\$195	\$390
	Boat 59 feet or less	\$130	\$260
(2)	Regulated sea herring fishery endorsement	\$30	\$60
(3)	Coastal Access Permit – purse seine	\$30	\$60
If fishing in harbors and estuaries:			
(4)	Inshore Restricted Waters permit endorsement	\$30	\$60

GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	Maximum vessel length limit of 72 feet in overall length subject to exemption [CMR 7.05] .
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>
	All State Waters* (closed to sea herring)	Aug. 1 – Oct. 31	CMR 9.02
	Inshore Restricted Waters	Year-round	CMR 4.02
	Eastern Cape Cod Bay*** (Dennis to Wellfleet)	Year-round	CMR 4.01
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04
<p>* During the annual sea herring spawning closure, vessels fishing in other fisheries are allowed a by-catch of 10 % herring by weight.</p> <p>*** Regulated fishery endorsement may be issued to fish in this area. Vessels seeking to fish in a restricted area from Rock Harbor, Orleans to Jeremy Point, Wellfleet are further restricted. See CMR 4.01.</p>			

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MANAGEMENT AREAS & ANNUAL SPECIFICATIONS	
	COMMERCIAL LIMITS
Management Area 1A	Landing and possession of herring prohibited: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. on days specified by the Director and ASMFC (see <i>Marine Fisheries</i> Advisories); and 2. when 100% of the Management Area 1A is taken or projected to be taken.
Management Areas 1B & 2	Landing and possession of herring prohibited when 100% of the area-specific quota is taken or projected to be taken.
Exception: Vessels may land or possess up to 2,000 lbs. of sea herring during times the directed fishery is closed as described in CMR 9.05 .	
PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Striped bass [CMR 6.07] and shad [CMR 4.12] , smelt [Ch.130 sec. 35] , tuna [CMR 6.04] , sturgeon [CMR 6.16] , Atlantic salmon [CMR 6.06] , river herring [CMR 6.17] , and certain shark species including basking sharks, dusky sharks, sand tiger sharks, and white sharks [CMR 6.37] .

MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
 (as of May 2009)

Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

FISHERY:	COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING (OTHER THAN DREDGING FOR SURF CLAM, OCEAN QUAHOGS OR POTTING CONCHS)
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PERMIT REQUIRED:	In approved waters:				
	(1)	License from respective coastal municipality [Ch. 130, § 52 & 53]			
	(2)	Commercial fishermen license endorsed for shellfish required to sell shellfish harvested from approved waters [Ch. 130, § 75 & 83]			
		<u>Licenses endorsed for Commercial Shellfish</u>		<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
		Coastal Lobster	\$260	\$520
		Large Boat (60' – 90')	\$195	\$390
		Small Boat (0' – 59')	\$130	\$260
		Individual	\$65	\$130
		Shellfish	\$40	\$80
		Rod & Reel – Shellfish	\$55	\$130
	In certain restricted or conditionally restricted areas, as designated by DMF: (Note: Since 1997, DMF no longer permits harvest of contaminated soft shelled clams for bait)				
(1)	License from respective coastal municipality [Ch. 130, § 52 & 53]				
(2)	Special license to harvest, possess, and sell shellfish from restricted areas [CMR 7.01 & 7.02]				
	<u>Special Shellfish Permits</u>		<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>	
	Master Digger	.....	\$250	\$500
	Subordinate Digger	.....	\$100	\$200

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yearly catch reports required for shellfishermen harvesting in approved waters. • Cities and towns generally require a yearly catch report at the time of license renewal. • Master diggers report as noted in the special permit requirements.
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GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	Subject to town authority (Ch. 130, § 52) .
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04
	Shellfish growing waters may be closed to the harvest of shellfish as a result of:		
	(1)	Public health closure based upon water quality, e.g. bacteria or oil spill. (Ch. 130, § 74, 74A & 75)	
	(2)	Marine Biotoxin closure based upon the presence of toxin above NSSP closure levels in raw shellfish (Ch. 130, § 74A; 322 CMR 6.38)	
	(3)	DMF Management Closure (MC) based upon the lack of a DMF shellfish sanitary survey, triennial report or NSSP required number of water samples (Ch. 130, § 2, 17, 17A, 74, 75, 80 & 104; 322 CMR 7.01)	
	(4)	Municipal management closure based upon the closure of an area for management or propagation purposes (Ch. 130, § 54)	

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Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

AREA/SEASON CLOSURES (cont'd):	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>
	(5) Ch. 130, § 71	establishes a closed harvest season for bay scallops April 1 to October 1 each year. Municipalities may modify bay scallop season within the above mentioned season [Ch. 130, § 73] .	

FISHERY LIMITS:	<u>Possession Limits</u> – subject to town or city regulation		
	<u>Minimum Size</u> – subject to state law or regulation as listed:		
	<u>SHELLFISH</u>	<u>MINIMUM SIZE</u>	<u>OTHER RESTRICTIONS</u>
	CONCH	2¾" shell width [322 CMR 6.21]	Consult town regulations
	OYSTER	3" shell diameter [322 CMR 6.20]	Consult town regulations
	QUAHOG	1" shell thickness [322 CMR 6.20]	Consult town regulations
	SEA SCALLOP	3½" shell height [322 CMR 6.05]	
	SOFT-SHELL CLAM	2" shell diameter [322 CMR 6.20]	Consult town regulations
	BAY SCALLOPS	Well-defined raised annual growth line at least 10 millimeters (mm) from the hinge of the shell. Exemption, well-defined raised annual growth line located less than 10 mm from the hinge of the shell if the shell height is at least 63.5 mm (2.5"). [322 CMR 6.11]	Consult town regulations; closed season April 1 - Oct 1
	SURF CLAM	5" shell diameter, [322 CMR 6.08]	Possession limits

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Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

FISHERY:	COMMERCIAL BAY QUAHOG DREDGING
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PERMIT REQUIRED:				<u>Resident</u>		<u>Non-Resident</u>
	(1)	Commercial Fishermen				
		Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster	\$260		\$520
		Boat 60 - 99 feet	.....	\$195		\$390
		Boat 59 feet or less	.....	\$130		\$260
	(2)	Regulated quahog dredge endorsement	\$30		\$60

PERMIT LIMIT:	Limited entry [CMR 6.36] .
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PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:	Regulated quahog dredge endorsement is transferable.
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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	All commercial quahog dredge fishermen are required to provide the Director with a monthly record of the areas fished, times fished, and a daily record of harvest by bushel [CMR 6.36] . Forms supplied by DMF & available online at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries .
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GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dredge limited to 48 inches effective fishing width. [CMR 6.36] • Limited to operation of one dredge. [CMR 6.36] • Vessel maximum size: 90 feet registered length [CMR 8.05].
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION
	All state waters closed to night fishing.	Year-round	[CMR 8.03]
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	[CMR 4.04]
	No fishing in any area designated as contaminated and classified as PROHIBITED by DMF	Year-round	[Ch. 130 §§ 74 or 74A]
	No fishing in any area closed for management purposes. Contact DMF.	Contact DMF	[CMR 6.08]
	No fishing in any area not classified as APPROVED according to the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.	Contact DMF	[CMR 6.08]

SPECIES BANNED TO THIS GEAR:	Surf clams or ocean quahogs unless permitted.
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FISHERY LIMITS:	<u>Possession Limits</u> - Limit of 40 bushels per 24 hour day [CMR 6.36] .
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Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

FISHERY:	OCEAN QUAHOG DREDGING				
PERMIT REQUIRED:				<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
	(1)	Commercial Fishermen			
		Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster		\$260	\$520
		Boat 60 - 99 feet		\$195	\$390
		Boat 59 feet or less		\$130	\$260
	(2)	Regulated ocean quahog endorsement		\$30	\$60
PERMIT LIMIT:	Limited entry [CMR 6.08 & 7.06] .				
PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulated ocean quahog endorsement is transferable. 				
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All commercial ocean quahog fishermen are required to provide the Director with a monthly record of the areas fished, times fished, and a daily record of harvest by bushel [CMR 6.08]. Forms supplied by DMF & available online at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries. 				
GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydraulic dredge limited to 100-inch effective fishing width [CMR 6.08]. Limited to operation of one dredge [CMR 6.08]. Vessel maximum size: 90 feet registered length [CMR 8.05]. Pump limited to 300 GPM at a 10-ft. head. 				
AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION		
	All state waters closed to night fishing.	Year-round	CMR 8.03		
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04		
	No fishing in any area designated as contaminated and classified as PROHIBITED by DMF	Year-round	CMR 6.08		
	No fishing in areas not classified as APPROVED according to the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.	Year-round	CMR 6.08		
PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Bay scallops, and quahogs (<i>M. mercenaria</i>) unless licensed by town where fishing for those species [CMR 6.08] , any vessel rigged for ocean quahogs may not possess surf clams [CMR 6.08] .				
FISHERY LIMITS:	<u>Minimum Size</u> – None <u>Possession Limits</u> - 26 cages (832 bushels) during any 24 hour period [CMR 6.08] .				

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Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

FISHERY:	SEA URCHIN FISHERY using DREDGES
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PERMIT REQUIRED:			<u>Resident</u>		<u>Non-Resident</u>
	(1)	Commercial Fishermen			
		Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster	\$260	\$520
		Boat 60 - 99 feet	.....	\$195	\$390
		Boat 59 feet or less	.....	\$130	\$260
	(2)	Regulated sea urchin endorsement	.....	\$30	\$60
	(3)	Mobile gear coastal access endorsement (if fishing with dredge greater than 48 inches in waters open to mobile gear fishing)	.....	\$30	\$60

PERMIT LIMIT:	CAP permits are limited to those who held a permit in 1994 and are transferable [CMR 7.05] .
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PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:	Affidavit must be submitted.
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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	Annual catch report.
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GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited to single dredge of 48 inches effective fishing width if fishing in areas closed to mobile gear (spare may be stowed on board) [CMR 6.24]. Frame constructed of ¾" (or smaller) stock with skids 3' or less. Chain sweep constructed of no more than ¼" in a single layer square pattern less than 4.5' long. Twine codend maximum 5' long. Chafing gear constructed of twine or rubber mat maximum 5' long and 4' wide. Cable for towing dredge: maximum diameter 3/8" cable or 5/8" rope. Limited to use and possession of dredge or combination of dredges with an effective fishing width of 10 feet when fishing in areas open to mobile gear [CMR 6.24]. Vessel maximum size: 90 feet registered length [CMR 7.05].
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION
	All state waters closed to night fishing.	Year-round	[CMR 8.03 & 6.24]
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	[CMR 4.04]
	All state waters.	Mar 1 – Oct 31	[CMR 6.24]

PROHIBITED SPECIES:	No bycatch of regulated species allowed, including any finfish, lobsters, or shellfish [CMR 6.24] ; sub-legal urchins must be culled and returned immediately [CMR 6.24] ;
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FISHERY LIMITS:	2" minimum size.
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 RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
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Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

FISHERY:	SEA URCHIN FISHERY with SCUBA				
PERMIT REQUIRED:				<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
	(1)	Commercial Fishermen			
		Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster	.....	\$260	\$520
		Boat 60 - 99 feet	.....	\$195	\$390
		Boat 59 feet or less	.....	\$130	\$260
		or			
		Individual	.....	\$65	\$130
	(2)	Regulated sea urchin endorsement	.....	\$30	\$60
PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:	Affidavit must be submitted.				
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	Annual catch report.				
GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	Vessel maximum size: 90 feet registered length [CMR 8.05].				
AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION		
	All state waters.	May 1 – Aug. 31	[CMR 6.24]		
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04		
PROHIBITED SPECIES:	No bycatch of regulated species allowed, including any finfish, lobsters, or shellfish [CMR 6.24] . Sublegal urchins must be culled and returned immediately [CMR 6.24] .				
FISHERY LIMITS:	2" minimum size.				

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Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

FISHERY:	SURF CLAM DREDGING
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PERMIT REQUIRED:			<u>Resident</u>		<u>Non-Resident</u>
(1)	Commercial Fishermen				
	Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster	\$260		\$520
	Boat 60 - 99 feet	.....	\$195		\$390
	Boat 59 feet or less	.....	\$130		\$260
(2)	Regulated surf clam endorsement	.....	\$30		\$60

PERMIT LIMIT:	Limited entry, subject to renewals only [CMR 6.08 & 7.06] . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulated surf clam endorsement is transferable.
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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	All commercial surf clam fishermen are required to provide the Director with a monthly record of the areas fished, ports landed, and a daily record of surf clams harvested [CMR 6.08] . Forms supplied by DMF.
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GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydraulic dredge limited to [CMR 6.08]: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 48 inch effective fishing width except in waters noted below; 2. 100 inch effective fishing width in waters south of Chatham, then south and west within state waters to the MA/RI border; and 3. 16 inch effective fishing width in those waters of the Town of Chatham designated in [CMR 6.08(2)(j)]. • In waters of the Town of Chatham designated in [CMR 6.08(2)(j)], hydraulic dredges are to be powered by no more than a 3” pump with 300 GPM or less capacity at a ten foot head (according to manufacturer’s specifications) [CMR 6.08]. • Limited to operation of one dredge. [CMR 6.08] • Vessel maximum size limited to 90 feet registered length [CMR 8.05].
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>
	All state waters closed to night fishing	Year-round	CMR 8.03
	Any area designated as contaminated & classified as PROHIBITED by DMF	Year-round	CMR 6.08
	Any area not classified as APPROVED according to the National Shellfish Sanitation Program	Year-round	CMR 6.08
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04
	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>
	No dredging of surf clams shoreward of the 12-foot depth contour from Point Allerton, Hull to the RI border (see CMR 6.08(2)(i-k) for exceptions regarding the Towns of Gay Head, Chatham & Nantucket).	Nov. 1 – Apr. 30	CMR 6.08

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Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

AREA/SEASON CLOSURES: (cont'd)	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>REGULATION</u>
	No dredging of surf clams shoreward of the 20-foot depth contour from Point Allerton, Hull to the RI border (see CMR 6.08 for exceptions regarding the Towns of Gay Head, Chatham & Nantucket).	May 1 – Oct. 31	CMR 6.08
	No dredging of surf clams shoreward of line from Long Point, Provincetown to the “Hopper” so called in North Truro.	Year-round	CMR 6.08
	No dredging of surf clams shoreward of line from Jeremy Point, Wellfleet to the “Spire” in Brewster.	Year-round	CMR 6.08
	No dredging of surf clams shoreward of line from Seal Rocks off Scraggy Neck, Bourne to the southernmost tip of Sandy Point Dike, Wareham.	Year-round	CMR 6.08
	No dredging of surf clams within area one-mile seaward from mean low water from Great Point Light to Sankaty Light, Nantucket.	May 1 – Oct. 31	CMR 6.08
	No dredging of surf clams shoreward of line from Jeremy Point, Wellfleet to the “Spire” in Brewster.	Year-round	CMR 6.08
PROHIBITED SPECIES:	Bay scallops, and quahogs (<i>M. mercenaria</i>) unless licensed by town where fishing for those species [CMR 6.08] .		
FISHERY LIMITS:	<u>Minimum Size</u> - Surf clam minimum size limit 5" shell diameter [CMR 6.08] . <u>Possession Limits</u> - 200 bushels per 24-hour day [CMR 6.08] or 400 bushels per 48-hour trip when fishing in state waters [CMR 6.08] .		

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Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

FISHERY:	SURF CLAM DREDGING IN CONTAMINATED AREAS (Harvest for bait purposes from prohibited areas)
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PERMIT REQUIRED:			<u>Resident</u>		<u>Non-Resident</u>
(1)	Commercial Fishermen				
	Boat 99+ feet Coastal or Offshore Lobster	\$260		\$520
	Boat 60 - 99 feet	.....	\$195		\$390
	Boat 59 feet or less	.....	\$130		\$260
(2)	Regulated contaminated surf clam endorsement	\$30		\$60

PERMIT LIMIT:	None.
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PERMIT RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisherman may not hold a Shellfish Transaction Card [CMR 6.08]. Catch must be landed & distributed according to permit restrictions [CMR 6.08]. All shellfish must be landed at a location to be named on the permit [CMR 6.08].
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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All commercial contaminated surf clam fishermen are required to provide the Director with a monthly record of the areas fished, ports landed, and a daily record of surf clams harvested by bushel [CMR 6.08]. Forms supplied by DMF & available online at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries. In addition a daily record of sales must be kept [CMR 6.08]. All bags and containers must be labeled at sea with red tags stating: "CONTAMINATED SHELLFISH – FOR BAIT PURPOSES ONLY" [CMR 6.08].
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GEAR RESTRICTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydraulic dredge limited to 16-inch effective fishing width. [CMR 6.08]. Limited to operation of one dredge [CMR 6.08]. Vessel maximum size: 90 feet registered length [CMR 8.05]. Pump limited to 300 GPM at a 10-ft. head.
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AREA/SEASON CLOSURES:	LOCATION	DURATION	REGULATION
	All state waters closed to night fishing.	Year-round	CMR 6.08 & 8.03
	Fish Weir Buffer Zone within the area marked by anchor buoys.	Year-round	CMR 4.04
	Any area not specifically endorsed on permit	Year-round	CMR 6.08
	No fishing in areas classified as APPROVED.	Year-round	CMR 6.08

PROHIBITED SPECIES:	All other shellfish species.
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FISHERY LIMITS:	<u>Minimum Size</u> - Surf clam minimum size limit 5" shell diameter [CMR 6.08] . <u>Possession Limits</u> - Limit of 50 bushels of shell stock or 100 gallons shucked per 24-hour trip [CMR 6.08] .
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Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

SPECIES-SPECIFIC REGULATED FISHERY ENDORSEMENTS

If certain species are being taken or landed, commercial permits must be endorsed with the relevant species-specific regulated fishery endorsements. Each endorsement is assessed the indicated fee (**Not available for student lobster permittees**):

	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
Regulated Fishery Endorsement (open access)	\$30	\$60
American Eel Black Sea Bass Dogfish Horseshoe Crab Northern Shrimp Scup Sea Herring Sea Urchin Striped Bass Surf Clam (contaminated) Surface Gillnet Shellfish Sea Scallop Diving Sea Scallop Shucking Bay Scallop Shucking Inshore Net		
Regulated Fishery Endorsement (limited access)	\$30	\$60
Bluefin Tuna by Purse Seine Bluefish Gillnet Bottom Gillnet Fish Pot – Black Sea Bass Fish Pot – Conch Fish Pot – Scup Fluke Gillnets Groundfish Mobile Gear Coastal Access Ocean Quahog Quahog - Dredge Restricted Waters Inshore Net Surf Clam		

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Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

FINFISH MINIMUM SIZE AND POSSESSION LIMITS

MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS

- (1) **Commercial and Recreational Fishermen.** It is unlawful for any person to possess:
 - (a) Eels less than 6" total length as established by [322 CMR 6.30](#);
 - (b) Dab less than 14" total length as established by [322 CMR 6.09](#);
 - (c) Gray sole less than 14" total length as established by [322 CMR 6.09](#);
 - (d) Haddock less than 18" total length as established by [322 CMR 6.03](#);
 - (e) Halibut less than 36" as established by [322 CMR 6.03](#);
 - (f) Monkfish less than 17" total length or monkfish tails less than 11" as established by [322 CMR 8.06](#);
 - (g) Redfish less than 9" total length as established by [322 CMR 8.06](#);
 - (h) Tautog less than 16" total length as established by [322 CMR 6.40 & 8.06](#);
 - (i) Weakfish less than 16" total length as established by [322 CMR 8.06](#);
 - (j) Windowpane flounder less than 12" total length as established by [322 CMR 6.09](#);
 - (k) Winter flounder less than 12" total length as established by [322 CMR 6.09](#); and
 - (l) Yellowtail flounder less than 13" total length as established by [322 CMR 6.03](#).

- (2) **Commercial Fishermen.** It is unlawful for any commercial fisherman to possess:
 - (a) Black sea bass less than 12" total length not including the tail tendril as established by [322 CMR 8.06](#);
 - (b) Cod less than 22" total length as established by [322 CMR 6.03](#);
 - (c) Pollock less than 19" total length as established by [322 CMR 6.03](#);
 - (d) Scup less than 9" total length as established by [322 CMR 8.06](#);
 - (e) Striped bass less than 34" total length as established by [322 CMR 6.07](#); and
 - (f) Summer flounder less than 14" total length as established by [322 CMR 6.09](#).

- (3) **Recreational Fishermen.** It is unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess:
 - (a) Black sea bass less than 12.5" total length not including the tail tendril as established by [322 CMR 8.06](#);
 - (b) Cod less than 24" total length in the Gulf of Maine Cod Management Area as established by [322 CMR 6.03](#);
 - (c) Cod less than 22" total length in the Cape Cod South and East Cod Management Area as established by [322 CMR 6.03](#);
 - (e) Scup less than:
 - i. 10½" total length when fishing aboard private vessels or from shore as established by [322 CMR 8.06](#); or
 - ii. 11" total length when fishing aboard for-hire vessels as established by [322 CMR 8.06](#).
 - (f) Striped bass less than 28" total length as established by [322 CMR 6.07](#);
 - (g) Summer flounder (fluke) less than 18 ½" total length as established by [322 CMR 6.09](#); and
 - (h) White perch less than 8" total length as established by [322 CMR 8.06](#).

POSSESSION LIMITS

- (1) **Commercial and Recreational Fishermen.** It is unlawful for any person to:
 - (a) land or possess any Atlantic sturgeon or the endangered short-nosed sturgeon as established by [322 CMR 6.16](#);
 - (b) attempt to harvest, or to harvest, catch, take, possess, transport, sell or offer to sell any basking shark, dusky shark, sand tiger shark, or white shark taken from the coastal waters of the Commonwealth as established by [322 CMR 6.37](#);
 - (c) possess, harvest, or sell river herring as established by [322 CMR 6.17](#); and
 - (d) take, sell or possess more than 50 blue crabs during any 24-hour period [322 CMR 6.19](#).

- (2) **Commercial Fishermen.** It is unlawful for any commercial fisherman to possess more than:
 - (a) the daily allowance for black sea bass that differs by gear type as established by [322 CMR 6.28](#);
 - (b) 5,000-lbs of bluefish as established by [322 CMR 4.05](#);
 - (c) 800 pounds of cod caught in waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth north of 42 00'N. latitude including all waters of Cape Cod Bay when fishing under authorization of a state waters groundfish endorsement (GE) as authorized by [322 CMR 6.03](#);

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- (d) 1,000 lbs. of cod caught in waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth South of 42 00'N. latitude excluding waters of Cape Cod Bay during a 24-hour day when fishing under authorization of a state waters groundfish endorsement (GE), except that vessels with federal permits allowing the taking of cod from federal waters may possess and land more than 1,000 lbs. provided said cod were lawfully taken from federal waters [\[322 CMR 6.03\]](#);
 - (e) 75 lbs. of cod caught in waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth when fishing under authorization of a state commercial fishing permit other than a state waters groundfish endorsement (GE) [\[322 CMR 7.01\]](#);
 - (f) Cod gonads weighing in aggregate in excess of 10% of the weight of cod aboard the vessel as established in [322 CMR 6.03](#);
 - (g) 470 pounds of monkfish tails or 1,560 pounds of whole weight monkfish [322 CMR 6.03](#);
 - (h) 250 pounds of yellowtail flounder per day as established by [322 CMR 6.03](#);
 - (i) 1,000-lbs. of witch flounder per day, except that vessels with federal permits allowing the taking of witch flounder from federal waters may possess and land more than the state possession limit provided said witch flounder were lawfully taken from federal waters [\[322 CMR 6.03\]](#);
 - (j) 1 halibut per vessel per day as established by [322 CMR 6.03](#);
 - (k) the daily allowance for scup as established by [322 CMR 6.28](#);
 - (l) 30 striped bass daily during the open fishing days of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; 5 striped bass daily during the open fishing day of Sunday [\[322 CMR 6.07\]](#);
 - (m) 40 tautog during any 24-hour period as established by [322 CMR 8.06](#);
 - (n) 6 shad as established by 322 CMR 8.06. (It is unlawful to possess shad taken by nets [Ch 130, s100c](#));
 - (o) unlawful to possess sea herring during times and areas defined in [322 CMR 9.02](#);
 - (p) 1,000 horseshoe crabs harvested for biomedical purposes or 400 horseshoe crabs harvested for bait purposes during any 24-hour period starting at 12PM and no harvesting on Saturday and Sundays as established by [322 CMR 6.34](#);
 - (q) the daily allowance of spiny dogfish as established by [322 CMR 6.35](#);
 - (r) the daily allowance for fluke as established by [322 CMR 6.22](#); and
 - (s) the daily allowance for *Loligo* squid as established by [322 CMR 6.39](#).
- (3) **Recreational Fishermen.** It is unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess at any one time more than:
- (a) 20 black sea bass as established by [322 CMR 8.06](#);
 - (b) 10 bluefish as established by [322 CMR 6.18](#);
 - (c) 10 cod in the Cape Cod South and East Cod Management Area as established by [322 CMR 6.03](#);
 - (d) 10 cod in the Gulf of Maine Cod Management Area during April through October as established by [322 CMR 6.03](#);
 - (e) 2 cod in the Gulf of Maine Cod Management Area during November through March when fishing from shore or aboard a private vessel - no cod may be taken aboard for-hire vessels during this period - as established by [322 CMR 6.03](#);
 - (f) 1 halibut per person per day as established by 322 CMR 6.03;
 - (g) 10 scup per day for private anglers during the open fishing period of May 24th through September 26th, 45 scup per day for anglers aboard for-hire vessels during May 15th – June 28th; 10 scup per day for anglers aboard for-hire vessels during June 29th – September 17th as established by [322 CMR 8.06](#);
 - (h) 2 striped bass as established by [322 CMR 6.07](#);
 - (i) 5 summer flounder during July 1 - August 13 as established by [322 CMR 6.22](#);
 - (j) 3 tautog during any 24-hour period as established by [322 CMR 8.06](#);
 - (k) 8 winter flounder in the Gulf of Maine Area & 4 winter flounder in the Southern New England Area (SNE) during the spring and fall open fishing periods beginning the 4th Saturday in April and September, respectively and lasting for 30 consecutive days [\[322 CMR 6.23\]](#);
 - (l) 6 shad as established by [322 CMR 8.06](#);
 - (m) 10 weakfish as established by [322.CMR 8.06](#);
 - (n) 25 white perch as established by [322.CMR 8.06](#); and
 - (o) 50 eels as established by [322 CMR 6.30](#);
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MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
RULES & REGULATIONS SUMMARY
(as of May 2009)

Refer to Chapter 130 and 322 CMR for details.

SEASONAL POSSESSION RESTRICTIONS

- (1) **Commercial Fishermen.** It is unlawful for any commercial fisherman to possess:
 - (a) Black sea bass outside of the open fishing periods as noted in [\[322 CMR 6.28\]](#);
 - (b) Loligo squid using small-mesh otter trawls from June 10th through April 22nd unless amended by Director [\[322 CMR 6.39\]](#);
 - (c) Northern shrimp outside of the commercial season as specified by the Director [\[322 CMR 5.04\]](#);
 - (d) tautog outside of the open periods of April 16 - May 15 and September 1 – November 30 inclusive [\[322 CMR 8.13\]](#);
 - (e) scup outside of the open Winter I, Summer and Winter II periods [\[322 CMR 6.28\]](#);
 - (f) sea herring harvested from Management Area 1A during no-fishing days as specified by the Director [\[322 CMR 9.05\]](#);
 - (g) spiny dogfish outside of the commercial season as specified by the Director [\[322 CMR 6.35\]](#);
 - (h) striped bass outside of the open period of July 12 until quota is reached and on no fishing days during open period [\[322 CMR 6.07\]](#);
 - (i) summer flounder outside of the open fishing periods [\[322 CMR 6.22\]](#);
 - (j) tautog during December 1st – April 15th and May 16th – August 31st [\[322 CMR 6.40\]](#);
 - (k) winter flounder from inshore restricted waters from February 1 – May 31 and year-round from Mt. Hope Bay and its tributaries [\[322 CMR 6.23\]](#).

- (2) **Recreational Fishermen.** It is unlawful for any recreational fisherman:
 - (a) Aboard for-hire vessels to land or possess cod harvested from the Gulf of Maine Cod Management Area during November through March;
 - (b) to take or possess winter flounder from the Southern New England Area outside of the spring and fall open fishing periods [\[322 CMR 6.23\]](#); and
 - (c) to possess scup aboard private fishing vessels or from shore from September 27 – May 23; possess scup aboard for-hire vessels from September 18 – May 14 [\[322 CMR 8.06\]](#);
 - (d) to possess smelt during March 15 – June 15 [\[M.G.L. c.130 s.34\]](#);
 - (e) to possess summer flounder from August 14 – June 30th [\[322 CMR 8.06\]](#);

- (3) **Additionally,** it is unlawful to take horseshoe crabs on Saturday or Sunday except as provided in [322 CMR 6.34](#).