



David E. Pierce, PhD
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

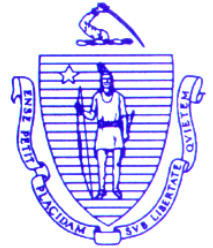
Division of Marine Fisheries

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April 18, 2017

Notice of Public Comment Period: 2017/2018 Annual Spiny Dogfish Trip Limit Specifications

To establish trip limits for the state's 2017/2018 (May 1, 2017 – April 30, 2018) commercial spiny dogfish fishery, the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries is accepting comment on the following annual specifications:

1. **Effective May 1, 2017 the commercial spiny dogfish limit shall be 6,000-lbs. per trip or per calendar day, whichever is longer;**
2. **Once the Director has determined that the northern states' allocation (58%) of the coast-wide commercial spiny dogfish quota has been reached, it shall be unlawful for commercial fishermen to land or possess any spiny dogfish.**

The Director will declare annual specifications prior to May 1, 2017 and upon approval by the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission. The Director's Declaration will be published in a local newspaper, the Massachusetts Register, distributed through *MarineFisheries* Listserv and posted on the *MarineFisheries* website.

Written public comments will be accepted until 5:00 PM on Wednesday, May 3, 2017. Please address all comments to Director David Pierce. Comments can be sent by e-mail to marine.fish@state.ma.us or by mail to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.

For more information about the management of spiny dogfish in state-waters, please visit our website:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries