



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114

p: (617) 626-1520 | f: (617) 626-1509

[www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



CHARLES D. BAKER  
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO  
Lt. Governor

KATHLEEN A. THEOHARIDES  
Secretary

RONALD S. AMIDON  
Commissioner

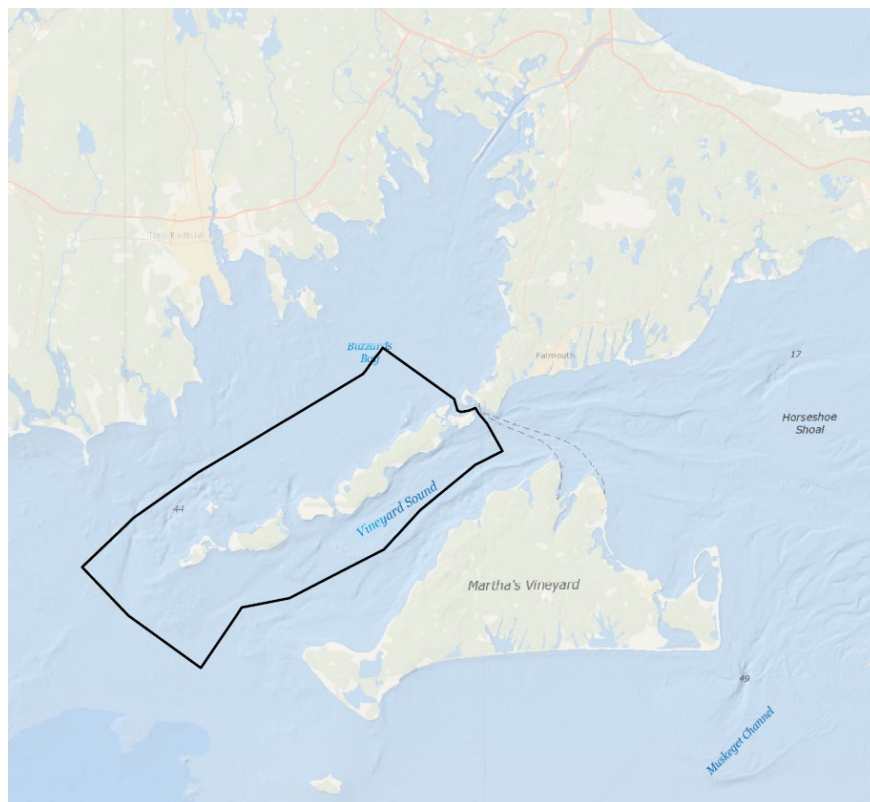
DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN  
Director

January 26, 2022

### Prohibition on Setting of Lobster Trawls in Gosnold Waters is Eliminated

The Massachusetts state legislature has amended G.L. c. 130, §37 and struck the long-standing prohibition on the fishing of lobster trap trawls in the waters of the Town of Gosnold. This change in state law is effective immediately. Permitted lobstermen may now set and fish multiple trap trawls within these town waters or continue to fish single traps (where every trap has its own buoy line) if that is their preference. See map below for a visual depiction of Gosnold town waters.

DMF sought this amendment to reduce buoy lines and any associated risk of entanglement with protected species such as whales and leatherback turtles. As a consequence of this statutory change, there is no longer any area in state waters where single trap fishing is mandated.



Please visit our website at [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)