



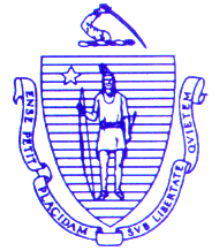
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January 31, 2018
Marine Fisheries Advisory

DIRECTOR DECIDES NOT TO ESTABLISH PILOT PROGRAM TO ALLOW WINTER-TIME SEA SCALLOP DREDGING WITHIN THE NORTH SHORE YEAR-ROUND MOBILE GEAR CLOSURE AREA NORTH OF BOSTON

On January 25, 2018, DMF's Director David Pierce informed the Massachusetts' Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission that he will not be establishing a pilot program to allow sea scallop dredging within the North Shore Year Round Mobile Gear Closure. His decision followed staff analysis of the pilot program and a review of the extensive public comment received.

With limited exceptions, all waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth north of Boston are closed to mobile gear fishing year-round [[322 CMR 4.06\(2\)](#)]. The proposed pilot program would have allowed sea scallop dredge fishing during February and March within a small area off Nahant, subject to potential gear modifications or other management restrictions. As this pilot program is not being adopted, sea scallop dredging may not occur in the proposed exemption area.

For more information about the management of the sea scallop dredge fishery in Massachusetts, contact DMF at 617-626-1520 or visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.