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Acting Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

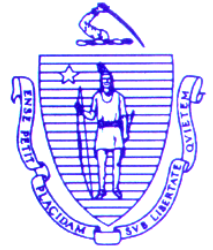
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February 12, 2020

Marine Fisheries Advisory

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON PROPOSED IN-SEASON INCREASE TO 2020 SUMMER FLOUNDER PERIOD I (JANUARY 1 – APRIL 22) COMMERCIAL TRIP LIMIT

For 2020, the annual summer flounder quota is 786,399 pounds. The Period I (January 1–April 22) summer flounder fishery is allocated 30% of the annual quota and this quota allocation is managed by a 1,000-pound trip limit. To date, the reported landings for Period I are 35,987 pounds, representing roughly 15% of the available Period I quota allocation.

As about 85% of the Period I quota allocation remains available, DMF is proposing to make an in-season adjustment to the Period I summer flounder trip limit. This in-season adjustment would increase the trip limit for 2020 from 1,000 pounds to 2,000 pounds. This proposed action is intended to provide the offshore fleet that targets summer flounder during the winter period with better access to the state's available quota. Such in-season adjustments are made through Director's Declarations and the issuance of temporary Permit Conditions. By regulation, if 25% of the annual quota is taken during Period I, the trip limit will be reduced to 100 pounds for the remainder of the period.

DMF is currently accepting public comment on this in-season adjustment through 5PM on Wednesday, February 26, 2020. Written comment may be submitted to Acting Director Daniel McKiernan by e-mail to marine.fish@mass.gov or by post sent to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114. The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission will consider adopting this trip limit increase at its February 20, 2020 business meeting.

For more information regarding the management of summer flounder in Massachusetts, please visit our website (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries) or call DMF at 617-626-1520.