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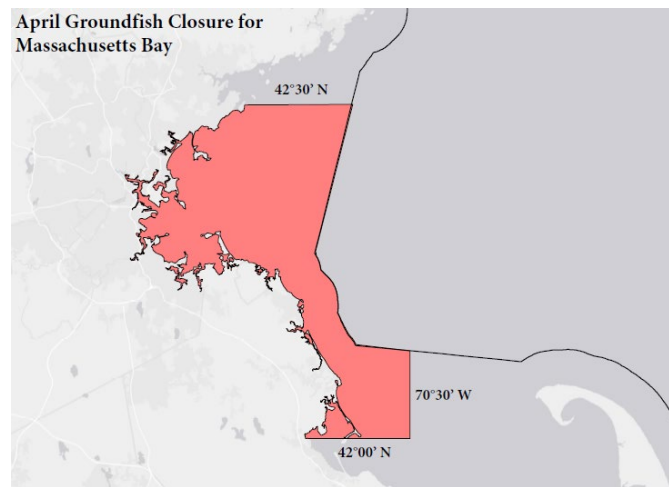
Mary-Lee King
Deputy Commissioner

February 14, 2020

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Public Comment Sought on Proposed Action to Temporarily Lift the State-Waters Groundfish Closure for April 2020

By regulation, those state-waters between 42°30' and 42°00' west of 70°30' are closed to commercial groundfish fishing during April. However, the regulation was developed to allow DMF to take action to lift this closure on an annual basis. The temporary rescinding of this closure is only to occur if DMF projects it will: (1) not result in an exceedance of the annual federally allocated state-waters subcomponent for regulated groundfish stocks; or (2) it will not compromise federal conservation objectives.



DMF has finished the analysis for the current federal fishing year (May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020). The analysis tracks state-waters only groundfish landings for this fishing year relative to the subcomponent and the overall annual catch limit utilization. The analysis supports the above proposal to lift the closure for April 2020. The full analysis and recommendation may be found on DMF's [website](#).

DMF is currently accepting public comment on this proposal through 5PM on Friday, February 28, 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 action at their February 20, 2020 meeting.

For more information regarding the management of marine fisheries in the Commonwealth please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries