



David E. Pierce, PhD.
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

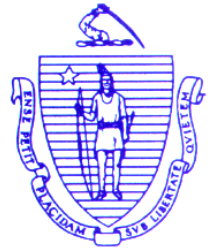
Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, Massachusetts 02114

(617)626-1520

fax (617)626-1509



Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary

George N. Peterson, Jr.
Commissioner

Mary-Lee King
Deputy Commissioner

**DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION:
COMMERCIAL PERIOD I SUMMER FLOUNDER
TRIP LIMIT REDUCTION**

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c. 30A §3 and under the authority at G.L. c. 130 §§17A and 80 and 322 CMR §§6.41(2)(d) and 7.01(7), the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries makes the following Declaration pertaining to the Period 1 (January 1 – April 22) summer flounder (“fluke”) trip limit:

- 1. 25% of the Commonwealth’s 2017 commercial fluke quota is projected to be taken by March 2, 2017.**
- 2. In accordance with 322 CMR §6.22(2)(c), effective 6:00 AM on March 3, 2017, Massachusetts’ commercial fishermen and commercial fishing vessels are prohibited from possessing or landing more than 100 pounds of fluke in Massachusetts through the end of Period 1 on April 22, 2017. All fluke lawfully retained in excess of this limit must be landed by March 2, 2017 at 8:00 PM, in accordance with 322 CMR §6.22(2)(h).**
- 3. Letters of Authorization to participate in the 2017 Period 1 Commercial Fluke Weekly Trip Limit Experimental Fishery, issued pursuant to G.L. c. 130 §§17 and 80 and 322 CMR §7.01(7), are hereby invalidated.**
- 4. In accordance with 322 CMR §7.07(4), effective March 3, 2017, Massachusetts’ seafood dealers are prohibited from acquiring fluke from any commercial fisherman or commercial fishing vessel in a quantity that exceeds the 100 pound limit, established at 322 CMR §6.22(2)(c), through the end of Period 1 on April 22, 2017.**

Dated: March 1, 2017

By: David Pierce