



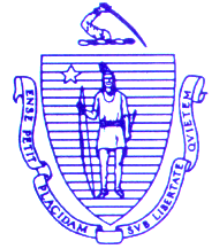
David E. Pierce
Director

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

March 1, 2017

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Effective March 3rd

2017 Period 1 Commercial Fluke Trip Limits Reduced to 100 Pounds

The 2017 Period 1 fluke fishery possession and landing limit will be reduced to 100 pounds effective at 6:00AM on March 3rd. Commercial fishermen or vessels who have retained fluke in excess of this limit must land this fluke in Massachusetts by 8:00 PM on March 2nd ([Declaration](#)). This possession and landing limit applies to all commercial fishermen, including those participating in the 2017 Period 1 Commercial Fluke Weekly Trip Limit Experimental Fishery. Letters of Authorization to participate in this experimental fishery will be invalid beginning on March 3rd. Dealers are also reminded that accepting fluke in excess of this 100 pound limit from any commercial fisherman or fishing vessel is prohibited. The 100 pound limit will remain in effect through the end of the Period 1 fishery on April 22.

The Period 1 fluke fishery is allocated up to 30% of the state's annual fluke quota for use during January 1st through April 22nd. When 25% of the annual fluke quota is projected to be taken, the trip limit is reduced to 100 pounds. Any unused portion of the Period 1 quota allocation will be reallocated to the Period 2 fishery quota allocation. The Period 2 fishery will open under status quo management on April 23rd at 6:00 AM. The commercial fluke limits for the remainder of the 2017 commercial fishing season are described below:

Period	Gear Type	Season	Open Fishing Days	Trip Limits	Minimum Size
Period 1	Nets	3/3 – 4/22	7-days per week	100 pounds	14 inches
	Other Gears	Closed	Closed	0 pounds	N/A
Period 2	Nets or Longlines	4/23 – 6/9	7-days per week	100 lbs	14 inches
	Nets	6/10 - Quota	Sun - Thur	300 lbs	14 inches
	Hook and Line	4/23 – 6/9	Closed	N/A	N/A
	Hook and Line and Longlines	6/10 - Quota	Sun - Thur	200 lbs	14 inches

The complete text of Massachusetts' summer flounder regulations can be found at [322 CMR 6.22](#) and more information regarding the management of fluke in Massachusetts can be found on the

Marine Fisheries website:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries