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March 16, 2020

Marine Fisheries Advisory

DMF Permit Update and Advisory

To assist fishermen and others in the seafood industry during the public health emergency posed by COVID- 19, DMF has made the following accommodations to assist our stakeholders:

Commercial Saltwater Fishing and Seafood Dealer Permits –

In accordance with 322 CMR 7.01(11), any un-renewed 2019 Commercial Fishing and Seafood Dealer permits will be considered valid through April 30, 2020. Permit renewals should be mailed in to DMF and staff will process them as soon as possible.

Any applications for new Commercial Fishing or Seafood Dealer permits should be mailed into the Division of Marine Fisheries, 251 Causeway St. Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114. Staff will process the permit applications as soon as possible.

Staff will continue to work with permit holders who are in the process of transferring their limited entry permits and endorsements, but the processing of these transfer applications may be delayed. We recommend emailing questions and other inquiries to the DMF general email marine.fish@mass.gov.

Recreational Saltwater Fishing Permits –

Recreational anglers and non-commercial lobster fishery participants are urged to purchase these permits through the convenient online application called [MassFishHunt](https://www.ma.wildlifelicense.com/Internetsales/IS/Customer/InternetCustomerSearch) (<https://www.ma.wildlifelicense.com/Internetsales/IS/Customer/InternetCustomerSearch>).

Due to the public health emergency, DMF will not be able to accommodate walk-in transactions for its various permits. Therefore, DMF urges permit applicants to continue to utilize online and mail-in options.