

David E. Pierce, PhD. Director

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

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Charles D. Baker Governor Karyn E. Polito Lieutenant Governor Matthew A. Beaton Secretary George N. Peterson, Jr. Commissioner Mary-Lee King Deputy Commissioner

March 23, 2017 MarineFisheries Advisory

## PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED TO SOLICIT INDUSTRY FEEDBACK AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE DRAFT 2017 VIBRIO PARAHAEMOLYTICUS CONTROL PLAN FOR OYSTERS

Three public meetings have been scheduled to solicit comments and provide information on the **Draft 2017 Massachusetts** *Vibrio parahaemolyticus (Vp) Control Plan for Oysters*. No changes to the plan or implementing regulations are being proposed for the 2017 season, but all aquaculturists and wild harvesters who commercially harvest oysters between May 21 and October 16 are encouraged to attend. The meetings will include a recap of the 2016 Vp control season and a review of the *Vp* control plan and implementing regulations.

The Vp Control Plan is intended to control the post-harvest growth of Vp bacteria in oysters to prevent Vp related illnesses. The plan was developed by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Division of Marine Fisheries and the Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health, Food Protection Program in conjunction with the Massachusetts shellfish industry in order to protect public health and comply with the requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to provide feedback you can submit comments via email at <u>vibrio.feedback@state.ma.us</u>

## Industry Vibrio Outreach (Dealers & Harvesters) <u>Public Meeting Schedule</u>

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at the Tisbury Town Hall, Captain Cornell Theatre, 51 Spring Street Tisbury, MA 02568 10:45AM - 11:45AM.

> Thursday, April 27, 2017 at the Eastham Town Hall, 2500 State Highway Eastham, MA 02651 1:15PM – 2:15PM.

Friday, April 28, 2017 at the Plymouth Public Library 132 South Street Plymouth, MA 02360 1:15PM -2:15PM. For more information contact Christopher Schillaci at the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries via email at <u>Christopher.Schillaci@state.ma.us</u> or by telephone at (508) 990-2860 ext. 135