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April 1, 2016

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Commercial Tautog Spring Fishery to Open Saturday, April 16, 2016

The Commonwealth's 2016 commercial tautog spring fishery will open effective 0001 hours on Saturday, April 16, 2016. The spring tautog fishery will remain open until the spring sub-quota of 18,131 lbs is projected to be harvested. After adjusting for overages in the 2015 fishery, the 2016 overall commercial quota has been set at 57,985 lbs with 18,131 lbs set for the spring sub-quota and 39,854 lbs set for the fall sub-quota.

Commercial fishermen are reminded that the tautog open season daily possession limit is 40 fish and the minimum size is 16 inches. It is unlawful to harvest tautog by means of fish pot. Fishermen with a valid commercial coastal lobster permit fishing for lobster may land tautog incidentally captured in a lobster trap, provided the aggregate weight of all finfish and whelk catch does not exceed the weight of lobsters at any time during a single commercial fishing trip.

Massachusetts' tautog regulations are available at [322 CMR 6.40](#). More information regarding the management of tautog in Massachusetts is found on the *Marine Fisheries* website:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries