



Paul J. Diodati
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

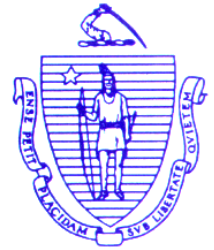
Division of Marine Fisheries

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
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George N. Peterson, Jr.
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Mary-Lee King
Deputy Commissioner

April 8, 2015

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Public Meetings Scheduled:

***Vibrio parahaemolyticus* Control Plan for Oysters**

Three public meetings have been scheduled to announce the **2015 Massachusetts *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp) Control Plan for Oysters**. Highlights of the 2015 plan include the option for harvesters to record the time of icing for individual harvester lots with a single harvester icing tag, clarification on re-submergence requirements for harvesters and new tagging options for re-submerged oysters, and changes to icing requirements for transport and storage by original dealers. Each of the public meetings will feature a presentation by Dr. Angelo DePaolo, Lead Seafood Microbiologist, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Gulf Coast Seafood Laboratory, Dauphin Island, AL. Dr. DePaolo's presentation will include an overview of the *Vibrio* management in other states, a demonstration of the effectiveness of ice slurries to rapidly cool oysters, and a discussion of best oyster handling practices. All commercial harvest of oysters in Massachusetts must comply with Vp controls during the period May 21 through October 18, 2015.

The plan is intended to control the post-harvest growth of Vp bacteria in oysters during warm weather 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 order to comply with the requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

Public Meeting Schedule

**Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at the Truro Community Center, 7 Standish Way,
Truro, MA 02666, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM.**

**Thursday, April 23, 2015 at the Barnstable Town Hall, Town Council Meeting Room
367 Main St, Hyannis, MA 02601, 12:30 AM – 2:30 PM.**

**Thursday, April 23, 2015 at the Kingston Town Hall, Room 200
26 Evergreen St, Kingston, MA 02364, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.**

*Note: we realize these meetings may conflict with tides optimal for oyster harvesting.
We apologize for any inconvenience.*

For further information regarding these meetings please contact
Chris Schillaci (508-990-2860 ext. 135; christopher.schillaci@state.ma.us)