



Paul J. Diodati
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

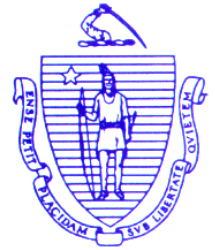
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April 15, 2015

Notice of Public Comment Period: 2015/2016 Annual Spiny Dogfish Trip Limit Specifications

For the 2015/2016 commercial spiny dogfish fishery, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Spiny Dogfish Board approved a 29.35 million pound quota and 5,000 pound trip limit for the Northern Region (ME-CT). To establish limits for the state's 2015/2016 commercial spiny dogfish fishery, the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries is accepting comment on the following annual specifications:

- 1. Beginning May 1, 2015 it shall be unlawful for any commercial vessel or commercial permit holder to possess or land in excess of 5,000-lbs. of spiny dogfish per trip or per calendar day, whichever is longer; and**
- 2. Once the Director has determined that the northern states' allocation (58%) of the ASMFC-approved quota has been reached, it shall be unlawful for commercial fishermen to land or possess any spiny dogfish.**

The Director will declare annual specifications following this public comment period and upon approval by the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission. The Director's Declaration will be published in a local newspaper, the Massachusetts Register, distributed through *MarineFisheries* Listserv and posted on the *MarineFisheries* website.

Written public comments will be accepted until 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 29, 2015. Please address all comments to Director Paul Diodati. Comments can be sent by e-mail to marine.fish@state.ma.us or by mail to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.

For more information about the management of spiny dogfish in state-waters, please visit our [website](#).