



**David E. Pierce**  
*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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April 15, 2016

### **Notice of Public Comment Period: 2016/2017 Annual Spiny Dogfish Trip Limit Specifications**

To establish limits for the state's 2016/2017 commercial spiny dogfish fishery, the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries is accepting comment on the following annual specifications:

- 1. Effective May 1, 2016 the commercial spiny dogfish limit shall be 5,000-lbs. per trip or per calendar day, whichever is longer;**
- 2. Contingent on approval by the National Marine Fisheries Service, this limit will be increased to 6,000-lbs; and**
- 3. Once the Director has determined that the northern states' allocation (58%) of the commercial spiny dogfish quota has been reached, it shall be unlawful for commercial fishermen to land or possess any spiny dogfish.**

The Director will declare annual specifications prior to May 1, 2016 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 Friday, April 29, 2016. Please address all comments to Director David Pierce. Comments can be sent by e-mail to [marine.fish@state.ma.us](mailto: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:

[www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)