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*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

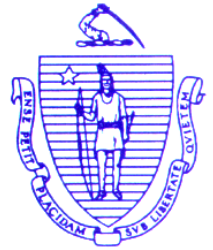
## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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April 17, 2015

### *Marine Fisheries Advisory*

#### **2015 Commercial Fluke Fishery**

#### **Period 1 to Close on April 22 and Period 2 to Open on April 23**

The 2015 Period 1 (January 1 – April 22) commercial fluke fishery is scheduled to close at 7:59 PM on April 22, 2015. At this time, commercial net fishermen will no longer be authorized to land the 500-pound Period 1 commercial trip limit. Additionally, all Letters of Authorization issued to commercial net fishermen to participate in the 2015 Period 1 Commercial Fluke Weekly Trip Limit Experimental Fishery will be void; participating vessels will no longer be authorized to land aggregate weekly limits of fluke.

Effective at 6:00AM on April 23, 2015 the Period 2 (April 23 – Quota) commercial fluke fishery will open. There are two sub-periods within Period 2:

- April 23 – June 9. Only those commercial fishermen using longlines and nets are authorized to possess and land fluke, and are limited to 100 pound.
- June 10 – Quota. Commercial fishermen using nets may land up to 300 pounds fluke per trip. Commercial fishermen using hook gear may land up to 200 pounds of fluke per trip. This commercial fluke fishery is closed on Fridays and Saturdays.

As of April 17, the 2015 commercial fluke fishery has landed 120,124 pounds of its 760,795-pound annual quota (~16%). When 100% of the quota is taken, the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries will close the commercial fluke fishery through December 31, 2015. A commercial regulated fishery permit endorsement for fluke is required to catch, possess and land fluke for commercial purposes in the Commonwealth. Regardless of the commercial fishing period, fluke may only be landed after 6:00AM and before 8:00PM.

For more information about the regulation and management of fluke in Massachusetts please view [322 CMR 6.22](#) and visit our [website](#).