



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



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Governor

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Director

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MarineFisheries Advisory

DMF TO MODIFY SPATIAL EXTENT OF THE MAY COMMERCIAL GROUNDFISH CLOSURE IN MASSACHUSETTS BAY

DMF is moving the southern boundary of the May commercial groundfish closure in Massachusetts Bay north by five minutes from 42° 20' north latitude (Boston) to 42° 25' north latitude (Nahant). This modified boundary will go into effect May 1, 2024. The map below depicts the current state of the various commercial groundfish closures in Massachusetts Bay, including this modification. These closures are designed to control groundfish harvest in state waters and provide broad-scale protections for spawning Gulf of Maine cod (see [map](#)).

This action is designed to increase access to available groundfish stocks and reduce the steaming time to open fishing grounds while still affording protections to known springtime cod spawning aggregations in Salem Sound. While the spatial extent of this commercial groundfish closure is changing it does not impact other overarching spatio-temporal closures that control where and when mobile gear or gillnets may be fished [322 CMR 4.00 and 12.00] or prohibit certain fishing activities that discretely protect spawning winter flounder and cod [322 CMR 8.00].

For more information, please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.