



David Pierce  
Acting Director

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

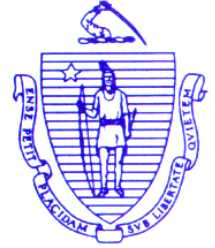
## Division of Marine Fisheries

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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Commissioner

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April 27, 2015

### **Corrected Notice of Public Hearings and Public Comment Period Gulf of Maine Cod and Haddock and Recreational Black Sea Bass**

**\*\*Corrected Date: Thursday, May 28, 2015\*\***

Under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A and pursuant to the authority found at M.G.L. c. 130 § 17A and 21 and 104, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission have scheduled a public hearing and public comment period. The public hearing and public comment period will serve as an opportunity to accept comment related to permanently codifying recently enacted emergency regulations, as well as newly proposed draft regulations. These emergency and draft regulations affect the commercial Gulf of Maine groundfish fishery, recreational Gulf of Maine cod and haddock fishery and the recreational black sea bass fishery.

#### **1. Commercial Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management.**

DMF will accept comments on the following:

- a. The emergency regulations, enacted on April 16, 2015, that reduced the commercial Gulf of Maine cod trip limit from 800 pounds to 200 pounds for any holder of state-issued groundfish permit endorsement or any federally permitted vessel fishing for groundfish in state waters.
- b. DMF proposal to amend the provision that allows commercial fishermen without a state-waters groundfish permit endorsement or proper federal permit to retain and land up to 75 pounds of cod per day, by reducing that limit to 25 pounds of cod per day.
- c. DMF proposal to protect spawning cod and reduce fishing mortality on cod by amending state-waters groundfish closures in the Gulf of Maine.

#### **2. Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod and Haddock.**

DMF will accept comments on the following:

- a. The emergency regulations, enacted on April 16, 2015, that prohibited the retention and landing of Gulf of Maine cod from state-waters by recreational fishermen until further notice.
- b. DMF proposal to enact recreational Gulf of Maine haddock limits of three fish at 17 inches to match federal regulations.

#### **3. Recreational Black Sea Bass**

DMF will accept comments on the following:

- a. The emergency regulations, enacted on April 24, 2015, that established a May 23-August 27 open recreational black sea bass season with an 8-fish per angler daily bag limit and 14 in minimum size.

### **Instructions for Written Comments**

Written public comments will be accepted until noon of Friday, June 5, 2015. Please address all comments to Acting 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.

### **Public Hearing Schedule**

**Thursday, May 28, 2015**  
**Start Time: 6:00 PM**  
**Annisquam River Station**  
**DMF Field Office**  
**30 Emerson Avenue**  
**Gloucester, MA 01930**

For more information regarding the public hearing, public comment period or the regulatory proposals, contact Jared Silva by phone (617-626-1534) or through e-mail ([jared.silva@state.ma.us](mailto:jared.silva@state.ma.us)).