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DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION OF THE 2016/2017 COMMERCIAL SPINY DOGFISH POSSESSION LIMITS

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c.30A, § 3 and under the authority of G.L. c.130, §17A, 21 and 80 and 322 CMR §§ 6.35(5) and 7.01(7), the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries, with the approval and consent of the Marine Fisheries Commission, hereby makes the following Declaration of the 2016/2017 Spiny Dogfish Possession Limits:

1. **Beginning May 1, 2016 it shall be unlawful for any commercial vessel or commercial permit holder to possess or land in excess of 5,000 pounds of spiny dogfish per trip or per calendar day, whichever is longer; and**
2. **If the National Marine Fisheries Service approves an in-season increase of the spiny dogfish trip limits from 5,000 to 6,000 pounds, it shall be unlawful for any commercial vessel or commercial permit holder to possess or land in excess of 6,000 pounds of spiny dogfish per trip or per calendar day, whichever is longer.**
3. **Once the Director has determined that the northern region's quota has been reached, it shall be unlawful for commercial fishermen to land or possess any spiny dogfish.**
4. **All spiny dogfish regulated fishery permit endorsements are hereby conditioned with the restrictions as established in the Declaration set forth in numbers one through three above.**

Dated: April 29, 2016

By: _____