



David E. Pierce, PhD  
Director

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

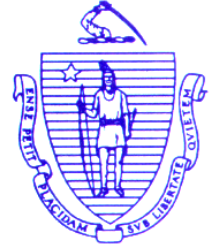
## Division of Marine Fisheries

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May 6, 2016

### Public Hearing Notice:

#### Recreational Fishing Limits for Black Sea Bass and Gulf of Maine (GOM) Cod and Haddock; Harwich Recreational Fishing Reef Restricted Area; and Sea Herring Spawning Closure Adjustments

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Under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A and pursuant to the authority found at M.G.L. c. 130 §§ 17A, 21 and 104, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission have scheduled a public hearing and a public comment period to accept comment on recently enacted emergency regulations and draft regulatory proposals at 322 CMR 6.03, 6.28, 8.16 and 9.00.

1. **Recreational GOM Cod (322 CMR 6.03)**. DMF recently enacted emergency regulations to adopt the following GOM recreational fishing limits for the period of May 1, 2016 – April 30, 2017:
  - a. Private anglers: Year round open fishing season with a per angler daily bag limit of 1-fish and a 19” minimum size.
  - b. For-hire vessels: An August 1 – September 30 open fishing season with a per angler daily bag limit of 1- fish and a 24” minimum size.
2. **Recreational GOM Haddock (322 CMR 6.03)**. DMF recently enacted emergency regulations to adopt the following GOM haddock recreational fishing limits for the period of May 1, 2016 – April 30, 2017:
  - a. Private anglers: Year round open fishing season with a per angler daily bag limit 15- fish and a 17” minimum size.
  - b. For-hire vessels: A May 1 – February 28 and April 15 – April 30 open fishing season with a per angler daily bag limit of 15- fish and a 17” minimum size.
3. **Recreational Black Sea Bass (322 CMR 6.28)**. DMF recently enacted emergency regulations to adopt a May 21 – August 31 open fishing season with a per angler daily bag limit of 5-fish and a 15” minimum size.
4. **Harwich Reef (322 CMR 8.16)**. DMF recently enacted emergency regulations that prohibit commercial fishing activity, recreational trap fishing activity and the setting of any vertical line within at 39.54 square shaped site in Nantucket Sound south of Harwich, which encompasses a recently constructed recreational fishing reef built by DMF. A map of the closure area and coordinates are available through DMF.
5. **Sea Herring Spawning Closures**. DMF is proposing draft regulations that adjust how the existing MA/NH sea herring spawning closure is prompted and enacted in accordance with

Amendment 3 to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Sea Herring.

**Public Hearing Schedule**

**10:00 AM**

**Thursday, June 9**

**DMF's Annisquam River Station**

**30 Emerson Avenue**

**Gloucester, MA 01930**

**Instructions for Written Comments**

Written public comments will be accepted until 10:00 AM on Thursday, June 9, 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. To obtain a full copy of the draft regulations, contact Jared Silva by phone (617-626-1534) or through e-mail ([jared.silva@state.ma.us](mailto:jared.silva@state.ma.us)).