



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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**DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION:  
LIFTING OF THE SEASONAL TRAP GEAR CLOSURE  
AND SEASONAL CAPE COD BAY SPEED RESTRICTED AREA**

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Pursuant to the requirements set forth at G.L. c.30A, §3 and under the authority of G.L. c.130, §17A and 80, and 322 CMR §§ 12.04(3), 12.05(4) and 7.01(7), the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries hereby declares:

- 1. To lift the February 1, 2021 – May 15, 2021 seasonal trap gear closure set forth at 322 CMR §12.04(2). Effective May 14, 2021, allow commercial trap fishermen to set trap gear in those waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth north and east of Cape Cod previously subject to this closure. The setting and fishing of all trap gear in those waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth north and east of Cape Cod shall comply with all other applicable marine fishery laws and regulations of the Commonwealth set forth at G.L. c. 130 and 322 CMR.**
- 2. To lift the seasonal vessel speed restrictions at 322 CMR §12.05(2). On April 30, 2021 the Director of the Division Marine Fisheries issued a Declaration, in accordance with 322 CMR §12.05(4), extending this seasonal speed restriction through May 15, 2021. This replaces that April 30, 2021 action. Effective May 14, 2021, vessels with an overall length of less than 65' operating in within the Cape Cod Bay Speed Restricted Area, as defined at 322 CMR §12.02 shall no longer be subject to a 10-knot speed limit.**
- 3. These actions are being taken in response aerial surveillance conducted by the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies documenting the absence of North Atlantic right whales in the waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth.**

Dated: May 13, 2021

By: 