



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114

p: (617) 626-1520 | f: (617) 626-1509

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

BETHANY A. CARD
Secretary

RONALD S. AMIDON
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

May 14, 2022

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Saturday May 14th Update on DMF's Monitoring for Right Whales in Coastal Waters

Due to fog conditions, a complete survey from Cape Cod to the New Hampshire border was not accomplished today. However, Massachusetts Bay and areas to the north were surveyed with no right whales observed. We anticipate another flight tomorrow to cover Cape Cod Bay and will announce the results of that survey and a decision on opening closed areas later on Sunday, May 15th. The fishery is scheduled to open on Monday, May 16th, pending this decision.

Right whales have demonstrated a consistent pattern of departing from Massachusetts coastal waters in the first two weeks of May. The previous surveillance flight showed right whales were absent in Cape Cod Bay with scattered aggregations in Massachusetts Bay. Given the potential impact of recent weather on right whale food resources and the time of year, we anticipate that right whales will follow migration patterns that are consistent with past trends.

DMF appreciates the cooperation and patience of all the fishing industry participants and stakeholders. We are sensitive to the challenges these issues can have on fishers who are unable to make plans to begin their trap fishing season.