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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

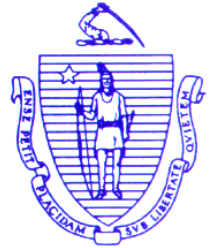
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June 7, 2018

Marine Fisheries Advisory

State Waters Small Mesh Trawl Fishery for Longfin Squid to Close on June 10

The small-mesh trawl fishery for longfin squid in the Commonwealth's southern waters of Nantucket and Vineyard Sounds and south of the Islands will close as scheduled after Saturday, June 9, 2018. Beginning on June 10th, trawlers may still fish within these waters with nets having 6 ½ inch or greater mesh in the cod end and 6 inches throughout the rest of the net.

State regulations enable the Director to extend the small-mesh trawl fishery when available sea sampling data reveal sizeable catches of marketable squid with relatively low levels of bycatch of other managed species. This year's most recent available data demonstrate that there are tows where a considerable amount of juvenile scup are being discarded.

While some fishermen have requested the fishery be extended to take advantage of the presence of large marketable squid in the state's southern waters, available sea sampling data do not justify such an extension. Trawlers with a moratorium or incidental squid permit remain authorized to fish for squid in federal waters under the Trimester 2 (May-August) quota.

Please visit our website:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries