



David E. Pierce
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

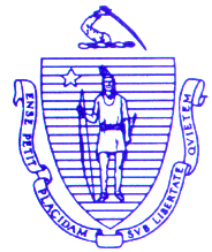
Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, Massachusetts 02114

(617) 626-1520

fax (617) 626-1509



Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

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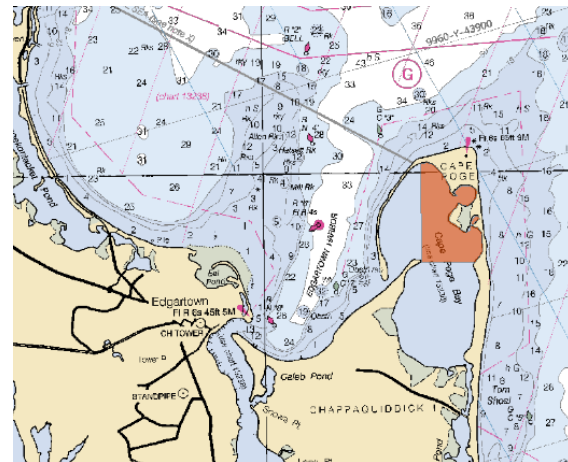
June 8, 2016

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Temporary Closure for Fish & Conch Pots in Cape Poge Bay

The Division of Marine Fisheries is enacting a temporary closure of fish and conch pots to allow a survey to be completed that will result in the identification and removal of munitions in the sediment in shallow waters of Cape Poge Bay, Edgartown. This closure will begin Sunday June 12 and will be in effect until further notice until the surveys have been completed.

DMF was notified by the Army Corps of Engineers and The Trustees of Reservations who have been involved with ongoing surveys to locate and remove unexploded munitions from WWII training exercises in the area of Chappaquiddick in Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard. These live munitions tend to be submerged under the sand bottom and require use of underwater sensors to identify individual munitions for authorized and trained divers to retrieve. The presence of fixed fishing gear in this area, specifically conch pots, interfered with the operation of the underwater sensor being used by the US Army Corps of Engineers. This closure is enacted to clear an area of fishing gear for public safety reasons.



DMF has taken immediate action to condition the permits of all conch pot and fish pot fishermen, in accordance with the authority at 322 CMR 7.01(7). This action will prohibit the setting or fishing of conch pots or fish pots within certain waters of northeastern Cape Poge Bay (see map) where munitions removal work is to occur.

It is expected the survey work will begin on Monday, June 13 and will be completed within a month, so the closure could be lifted soon. This will allow the US Army Corps of Engineers and their contractors to complete this important project without interference from fixed fishing gear.

DMF is notifying all fishermen who are known to fish pots in the area of this temporary closure.

For more information contact Deputy Director Dan McKiernan at 617 626-1536, or dan.mckiernan@state.ma.us