



David E. Pierce, PhD.
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

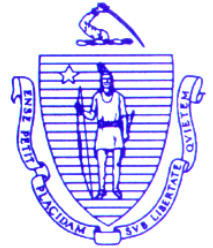
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July 27, 2017

Public Hearing Notice

Under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A and pursuant to the authority found at M.G.L. c. 130 §§ 17, 80 and 104, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has scheduled public hearings and a public comment period to on emergency regulations that amend 322 CMR 6.03 to establish the 2017 recreational Gulf of Maine cod and haddock fishing limits.

1. **2017 Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod Limits (322 CMR 6.03)**. Changes to the limits are described below:

	Private Angler Mode		For-Hire Angler Mode	
	2016 Rules	2017 Rules	2016 Rules	2017 Rules
Season	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 (status quo)	Aug. 1 – Sept. 30	Closed
Bag Limit	1-fish	1-fish (status quo)	1 fish	0 fish
Minimum Size	19 inches	19 inches (status quo)	24"	N/A

2. **2017 Recreational Gulf of Maine Haddock Limits (322 CMR 6.03)**. Changes to the limits are described below:

	Private Angler Mode		For-Hire Angler Mode	
	2016 Rules	2017 Rules	2016 Rules	2017 Rules
Season	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 (status quo)	Apr. 15 – Feb. 28	Apr. 15 – Sept. 16 Nov. 1 – Feb. 28
Bag Limit	15 fish	12-fish	15 fish	12-fish
Minimum Size	17"	17" (status quo)	17"	17" (status quo)

Instructions for Written Comments and Public Hearing Schedule

Written public comments will be accepted until 5PM on Tuesday, August 22, 2017. Address all comments to Director Pierce at marine.fish@state.ma.us or 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114. DMF will also take verbal comments at public hearing. The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2017 at 10:30 AM prior to the start of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission meeting. The hearing will be located at DFW's Headquarters at 1 Rabbit Hill Road in Westborough, MA. A full copy of the emergency regulations is available through Jared Silva (617-626-1534 or jared.silva@state.ma.us).