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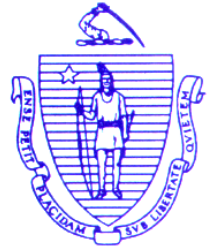
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DECLARATION OF FISHERY CLOSURE

2018 COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c. 30A § 3 and under the authority of G.L. c. 130 §§ 17A, 21 and 80 and 322 CMR §§ 6.41(2)(c) and 7.01(7), the Commonwealth's 2018 commercial summer flounder quota, as established at 322 CMR § 6.22(1), is projected to be taken on Monday, August 13, 2018. In accordance with 322 CMR § 6.22(2)(e) the commercial summer flounder fishery in Massachusetts will be closed effective Tuesday, August 14, 2018. As 322 CMR § 6.22(2)(f) requires all commercial fluke landings occur before 8PM, any fish harvested on Monday, August 13, 2018 shall be landed prior to 8PM on that date.

The commercial fluke fishery will remain closed until Thursday, February 1, 2019. During this period, it shall be unlawful for any fisherman to possess or land summer flounder in a manner that does not conform with the recreational summer flounder limits at 322 CMR 6.22(4), or to offer for sale or sell any summer flounder. Additionally, pursuant to 322 CMR 7.07(5)(b), it is unlawful for seafood dealers, permitted in accordance with G.L. c. 130 § 80 and 322 CMR § 7.01(3) to purchase summer flounder from any fisherman during this closed period.

Dated: August 10, 2018

By: 