



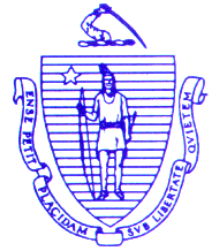
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August 10, 2018
Marine Fisheries Advisory

2018 COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY TO CLOSE EFFECTIVE TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2018

Massachusetts' 2018 commercial summer flounder (fluke) quota of 410,192 pounds is projected to be taken on Monday, August 13, 2018. Accordingly, the Massachusetts commercial fluke fishery will be closed effective Tuesday, August 14, 2018 ([Closure Notice](#)). Commercial fishermen and dealers are reminded that all fluke must be landed by 8PM on Monday night. Note that any Letters of Authorization granted to mobile gear fishermen to retain and land horseshoe crabs caught in the mixed trawl fishery when fishing for fluke are void when the 2018 commercial fluke fishery closes on August 14, 2018.

The Massachusetts commercial fluke fishery is scheduled to reopen on February 1, 2019. During the closed period, it is unlawful for fishermen to possess and land fluke for commercial purposes or in a manner that does not conform to the state's recreational fishing regulations. Additionally, it is unlawful for seafood dealers to purchase or receive fluke from fishermen.

Commercial fishermen are to submit monthly trip-level reports by the fifteenth of the following month, even if their permit was not fished. Reports should be sent to DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930. Failure to submit these reports for all months of the year in a timely manner may result in the non-renewal of a commercial permit and its endorsements in 2019. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2018 fishing season; additional copies can be obtained on the [Trip Level Reporting website](#).

For more information about the management of fluke in Massachusetts, contact DMF at 617-626-1520 or visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.