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# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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August 25, 2016

*Marine Fisheries Advisory*

### **WHELK FISHERY SCOPING MEETING SCHEDULED**

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The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has scheduled two scoping meetings to discuss whelk fishery management issues. The meetings are scheduled for:

**6PM – 8PM**

**Monday, September 12, 2016**

**Bourne Community Center, Room 1  
239 Main Street, Buzzards Bay, MA**

**4PM – 6PM**

**Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

**Katharine Cornell Theater  
54 Spring Street, Tisbury, MA**

All commercial fishermen who harvest whelk are invited to attend this public scoping meeting. The meeting will focus on the condition of the whelk resource including the need for improved conservation measures as well as compliance issues with many aspects of the state's fisheries management program. These include recent size at maturity studies, trends in landings, minimum size compliance, alternative gauging techniques, trap tag replacement issues and summertime sea turtle entanglements in fixed gear endlines.

Prior to developing specific public hearing proposals, DMF wanted an opportunity to engage the industry on these issues to assist in the development of future management initiatives. Following this scoping meeting, DMF will develop proposals for a public hearing during the winter of 2017, with the goal of implementing new management measures before the April 2017 opening of the season.

DMF provided the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission with a presentation on these whelk management issues at their business meeting on August 11. The agency will make a similar presentation at the above scheduled scoping meetings. For more information please contact Dan McKiernan at 617-626-1536 or [dan.mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:dan.mckiernan@state.ma.us).

**Please visit our website:**

**[www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)**