Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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August 28, 2017
MarineFisheries Advisory

IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMERCIAL TAUTOG FISHERY CONTROL DATE OF AUGUST 28, 2017

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has promulgated emergency regulations to enact a control date of August 28, 2017 for the commercial tautog fishery (public hearing notice). This control date may be utilized by DMF to address access to this fishery. Any future action to utilize this control date will be subject to a public hearing and comment period and review by the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission.

This control date is being established in anticipation of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) approving Amendment 1 to the Tautog Management Plan. Among other things, this Amendment proposes to establish a commercial point-of-harvest tagging program. This program may be implemented as soon as 2018. The implementation and administration of such a program may require potentially adjusting how this fishery is accessed. The establishment of a control date is the first step in potentially addressing future fishery access issues. DMF is also considering establishing a permit endorsement for the commercial tautog fishery in 2018.

Please note that we are not taking comment on or implementing the tagging program at this time. The implementation of this program is still pending ASMFC approval, which may occur as soon as October 2017. DMF will hold a separate public hearing and public comment period to discuss the implementation of a tagging program and it will require approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisor Commission. This will likely occur during early-2018.

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