



David E. Pierce, PhD.
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

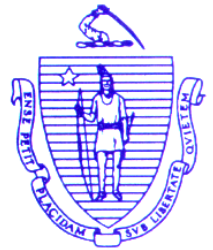
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DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION:

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF DISCRETE AREA IN WESTERN CAPE COD BAY TO SURF CLAM/OCEAN QUAHOG DREDGE FISHING

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c. 30A §3 and under the authority at G.L. c. 130 §§17A and 80 and 322 CMR §§4.06(7) and 7.01(7), the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries makes the following Declaration pertaining to the closure of a discrete area in Western Cape Cod Bay to surf clam/ocean quahog dredge fishing

- 1. The Director has found that it is necessary to temporarily close a discrete area in Western Cape Cod Bay to surf clam/ocean quahog dredge fishing to immediately resolve gear conflicts due to the use of this mobile gear within an area where there is a high density of fixed lobster fishing gear.**
- 2. The area shall be closed effective immediately and remain closed through October 31, 2017.**
- 3. The closed area shall be encompassed by a imaginary line drawn from Manomet Point in Plymouth, at 41° 55' latitude and 70°32.2' longitude; thence due east for 2.5 miles to where it intersects with a point at 41°55' latitude and 70°29' longitude; thence due south along the 70°29' longitudinal line to where it intersects with the shoreline in the town of Sandwich.**

Dated: August 28, 2017

By: *David Pierce*