



**David E. Pierce, PhD.**  
*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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August 29, 2017

### **Revised Public Hearing Notice: Commercial Tautog Fishery August 28, 2017 Control Date and Permitting**

Under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A and pursuant to the authority found at M.G.L. c. 130 §§ 80 and 104, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has scheduled a public hearing and public comment period to take comment on regulatory amendments to 322 CMR 7.00. The proposals below affect the future permitting of the commercial tautog fishery.

1. Control Date. Through emergency regulation, DMF has established a control date of August 28, 2017. This control date may be utilized through future rule-making to potentially reduce access to this fishery based on historic performance.
2. Permitting. DMF will also take comment on potentially establishing a tautog fishery permit endorsement.

These proposals are being made in anticipation of the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission's approval of Amendment 1 to the Tautog Management Plan. This Amendment will require states implement a point-of-harvest commercial tautog tagging program as soon as 2018. A public hearing will be held in the future to take comment on the implementation of a tagging program.

#### **Instructions for Written Comments and Public Hearing Schedule**

Written public comments will be accepted until 5PM on Friday, September 29, 2017. Address all comments to Director Pierce at [marine.fish@state.ma.us](mailto:marine.fish@state.ma.us) or 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114. DMF will also take verbal comments at public hearing. The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 10:30 AM. This hearing will occur prior to the start of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission meeting. The hearing will be located at DFW's Headquarters at 1 Rabbit Hill Road in Westborough, MA.

A full copy of the emergency regulations is available through Jared Silva (617-626-1534 or [jared.silva@state.ma.us](mailto:jared.silva@state.ma.us)).