



David E. Pierce, PhD.  
*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

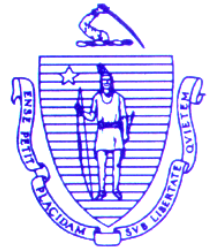
## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, Massachusetts 02114

(617) 626-1520

fax (617) 626-1509



Charles D. Baker  
*Governor*

Karyn E. Polito  
*Lieutenant Governor*

Matthew A. Beaton  
*Secretary*

Ronald S. Amidon  
*Commissioner*

Mary-Lee King  
*Deputy Commissioner*

August 30, 2018

### Marine Fisheries Advisory

## **COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL TAUTOG FISHERY REMINDERS**

---

### **Commercial Tautog Fishery to Open September 1<sup>st</sup>**

The commercial tautog fishery in Massachusetts is scheduled to open on Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. The 2018 quota is 62,945 pounds. The fishery is open seven days per week with a 40 fish possession limit and 16 inch minimum size. The fishery will close once DMF projects 100% of the quota will be taken.

New this year, all commercial tautog fishermen must hold a regulated fishery permit endorsement for tautog on their commercial fishing permit to commercially retain, possess, land, and sell tautog. Additionally, the agency adopted a control date of August 28, 2017, by regulation, for the commercial tautog fishery. Any fisherman who did not participate in the commercial tautog fishery – at a threshold to be determined - prior to August 28, 2017 may be subject to future management actions, including but not limited to limited entry. Notice will be sent if the agency seeks to utilize the control date to further limit catch or participation in the fishery in the future.

Commercial fishermen are reminded that even if their permit was not fished, their monthly trip level reports are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month. Failure to submit these reports for all months of the year may result in the non-renewal of a commercial permit and its regulated fishery permit endorsements for 2019. If you are not reporting electronically, paper trip-level reports should be sent to DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2018 commercial fishing season; additional copies can be obtained on the Division of Marine Fisheries [website](#).

### **Recreational Tautog Fishery Possession Limits**

The current recreational tautog fishery possession limit is 3 fish per person through October 14<sup>th</sup>. From October 15<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> the recreational possession limit will be 5 fish per person. The recreational tautog minimum size is 16" year round.

For more information regarding marine fisheries management in Massachusetts, please visit our website ([www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)) or call DMF at 617-626-1520.