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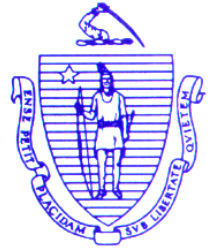
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NOTICE OF FISHERY CLOSURE

2019 COMMERCIAL SUMMER HORSESHOE CRAB BAIT FISHERY

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c. 30A § 3 and under the authority of G.L. c. 130 §§ 17A, 21 and 80 and 322 CMR §§ 6.41(2)(c) and 7.01(7), the Commonwealth's 2019 commercial horseshoe crab bait quota, as established at 322 CMR § 6.34(4), is projected to be taken on Saturday, August 31, 2019. In accordance with 322 CMR § 6.34(4), the commercial horseshoe crab bait fishery in Massachusetts will be closed effective Sunday, September 1, 2019. The commercial horseshoe crab bait fishery will remain closed until it reopens in 2020.

Pursuant to 322 CMR § 6.34(4), it shall be unlawful for any commercial fisherman to retain live horseshoe crabs or land and sell horseshoe crabs. Additionally, pursuant to 322 CMR 7.07(5)(b), it shall be unlawful for seafood and bait dealers, permitted in accordance with G.L. c. 130 § 80 and 322 CMR § 7.01(3) to purchase or receive horseshoe crabs directly from fishermen.

As provided at 322 CMR § 6.34(3)(a) pot fishermen may possess dead horseshoe crabs for bait purposes, provided they have documentation that the source of the crabs is a wholesale dealer or a bait dealer. Additionally, as authorized at 322 CMR § 6.34(4) and (6) and permitted in accordance with G.L. c. 130 § 80 and 322 CMR § 7.01(4)(a)(2)(f) or 7.01(4)(c), the harvest of horseshoe crabs solely for bio-medical purposes or for research may continue unaffected by this closure.

Dated: August 30, 2019

By: 