



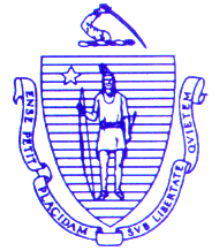
**David E. Pierce, PhD.**  
*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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September 14, 2018

### *Marine Fisheries Advisory*

## **Adjustments to Commercial Striped Bass Open Fishing Days For Remainder of 2018 Commercial Fishing Season**

The Division of Marine Fisheries, with approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, has adjusted the open commercial striped bass fishing days for the remainder of the 2018 commercial fishing season ([Declaration Notice](#)). This change has been implemented by [permit condition](#). Effective immediately, the open commercial striped bass fishing days are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. This change adds Tuesdays as an open commercial fishing day and does not otherwise effect the management of the commercial striped bass fishery. Unless further amended this revised open commercial fishing day schedule will remain in place until December 31, 2018 or when the 2018 commercial striped bass fishery closes, whichever occurs first.

Current quota monitoring data demonstrates that approximately 220,000 pounds – approximately 26% - of the commercial striped bass quota remains available. Recent weather events have affected commercial fishing effort and activity, slowing daily catch rates. If current conditions persist, we do not anticipate taking the 2018 commercial fishing quota before mid-fall, and by this time the fish begin to migrate out of our coastal waters. This adjustment will provide an additional commercial fishing day per week to enhance access to the remaining available quota and ameliorate the impacts that fall weather conditions may have on access to the fishery.

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 year may result in the non-renewal of a commercial permit and its regulated fishery permit endorsements in 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](#).

For more information about striped bass management, please visit our website:

[www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)