

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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September 14, 2015 *MarineFisheries* Advisory

2015 COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY TO CLOSE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 17

Massachusetts' 2015 commercial summer flounder (fluke) quota of 760,795 pounds is projected to be taken on Wednesday, September 16, 2015. Accordingly, Massachusetts' commercial fluke fishery is closed effective 0001 hours on Thursday, September 17, 2015 until 0001 hours on Monday, February 1, 2016 (Closure Notice). During the quota closure and until the 2016 commercial fluke fishery opens, it is unlawful for Massachusetts commercial fishermen to possess or land fluke for commercial purposes and for Massachusetts seafood dealers to purchase or receive fluke from any fisherman.

Commercial fishermen are reminded that trip-level reports are due monthly by the fifteenth of the following month, even if their permit was not fished. Reports should be sent to DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930. Failure to submit these reports for all months of the year in a timely manner may result in the non-renewal of a commercial permit and its endorsements in 2016. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2015 fishing season; additional copies can be obtained from the *MarineFisheries* website: <u>Trip-Level Reporting</u>.

For more information on the management of fluke in Massachusetts, contact *MarineFisheries* at 617-626-1520 or visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.