



David E. Pierce, PhD.  
Director

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

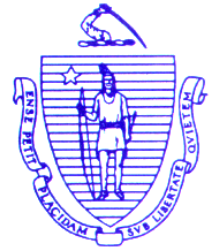
## Division of Marine Fisheries

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September 19, 2019

### Marine Fisheries Advisory

### **Adjustments to 2019 Commercial Summer Flounder Limits and Public Comment Period**

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), with approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, has adjusted the commercial summer flounder (fluke) limits for the remainder of the 2019 commercial fishing season ([Declaration Notice](#)). These changes have been implemented by permit condition ([Notice of Permit Condition](#)). The adjustments made by this declaration and established via these permit conditions will expire on December 31, 2019 or when DMF projects that 100% of the 2019 commercial summer flounder quota is taken, whichever occurs sooner.

From September 21 through October 31, 2019, Saturdays will be added as an open fishing day in the commercial fluke fishery. Accordingly, the open fishing days will be Saturdays - Thursdays, rather than Sundays - Thursdays. The commercial fluke fishery will remain closed on Fridays. Then effective November 1, 2019, all closed commercial fluke fishing days will be eliminated and the commercial trip limit will be increased to 1,000 pounds for all gear types; this adjustment was approved at the August 15, 2019 MFAC business meeting and announced on August 16, 2019 ([Advisory](#)).

The 2019 commercial fluke quota was set at 741,532 pounds. Current quota monitoring data demonstrates that approximately 443,600 pounds (60%) have been landed. These adjustments should help inshore commercial fishermen mitigate against reduced fishing opportunities due to worsening weather during the fall period, provide offshore fishermen with enhanced access to available quota during the late fall and early winter period, and allow the remaining 2019 commercial quota to be landed.

Written public comment on these adjustments will be accepted until 5PM on Friday, October 4, 2019. Please address all written comments to Director Pierce and submit to DMF by e-mail at [marine.fish@state.ma.us](mailto:marine.fish@state.ma.us) or by post to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114. DMF will review all written public comment with the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission at their October 17, 2019 business meeting and DMF may recommend further adjusting the 2019 commercial fluke limits based on the public comment received. If any further adjustments are approved by the MFAC, they will be announced following that meeting via DMF's e-mail list serve and will be published on DMF's website.

For more information about fluke management, please visit our website:

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