



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

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

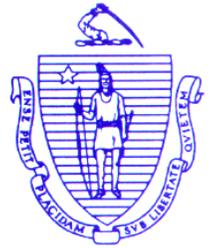
## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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September 20, 2016  
*Marine Fisheries Advisory*

### **EXPERIMENTAL FISHERY REAUTHORIZATION: SHORT-SOAK GILLNET FISHERY FOR DOGFISH**

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is re-authorizing an experimental fishery to allow a “short-soak” gillnet fishery for spiny dogfish from October 1 through November 30 within the seasonal groundfish closure in Cape Cod Bay and Massachusetts Bay from Plymouth to Marblehead. Current regulations prohibit groundfish fishing during this time and area with an exemption for longlining for dogfish. To capitalize on remaining quota and allow a continuation of current fishing practices, this experimental fishery will allow the use of sink gillnets set for short soaks for spiny dogfish.

Eligible fishermen and vessels are those whose state permits have a valid gillnet and dogfish endorsement and are up to date with their reporting requirements. Participation conditions and monitoring requirements will be established through a Letter of Authorization issued by the Director to the permit holder. Nets fished in the special access area may not be left overnight and vessels must remain within 1 mile of their nets at all times in the area. Bycatch of groundfish cannot be landed. If regulatory discards become problematic, permits may be further conditioned to: (1) restrict fishing from certain areas, (2) modify fishing gear, or (3) end access.

The Division may place at-sea observers aboard participating vessels. Consequently, vessels must be up to date with all required safety equipment, including but not limited to: immersion suits/PFDs, throwable floatation device, life rafts (where required), first aid material, distress signals, fire extinguishing equipment, and radio.

To enroll in this program, please send an e-mail or fax request to Kerry Allard (617-626-1509; [kerry.allard@state.ma.us](mailto:kerry.allard@state.ma.us)) and provide the following information:

- Permit holder name
- DMF Permit ID
- Vessel name, length and registration or documentation number
- Port you intend to fish from

For more information about this experimental fishery or the dogfish fishery, contact the Division of Marine Fisheries by phone at 617-626-1520 or by e-mail at [marine.fish@state.ma.us](mailto:marine.fish@state.ma.us). Please visit our website at [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).