

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

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CHARLES D. BAKER Governor KARYN E. POLITO Lt. Governor KATHLEEN A. THEOHARIDES Secretary

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DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION: IN-SEASON ADJUSTMENTS TO 2021 COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER LIMITS

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c. 30A §3 and under the authority at G.L. c. 130 §§2, 17A and 80 and 322 CMR §§6.41(2)(d) and 7.01(7), the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries hereby issues this Declaration to make the following in-season adjustments to the 2021 commercial summer flounder limits.

- 1. Open Fishing Days. Effective Sunday, September 26, 2021, the Division of Marine Fisheries is eliminating Fridays and Saturdays as closed commercial fishing days in the commercial summer flounder fishery. These changes amend by declaration those regulatory limits set at 322 CMR 6.22(2)(d) to allow those commercial fishermen fishing under the authority of a regulated fishery fluke endorsement to retain, possess, and land commercial limits of summer flounder seven days per week through December 31, 2021 or until the 2021 commercial summer flounder quota is taken, whichever occurs sooner.
- 2. <u>Trip Limits.</u> During the period of Sunday, September 26, 2021 through Saturday, October 9, 2021, the Division of Marine Fisheries is increasing the commercial summer flounder limit for all gear types to 800 pounds. Then effective Sunday, October 10, 2021, the Division of Marine Fisheries is increasing the summer flounder trip limit to 2,000 pounds. These changes amend by declaration those regulatory limits set at 322 CMR 6.22(2)(d) to allow those commercial fishermen fishing under the authority of a regulated fishery fluke endorsement to retain, possess, and land commercial limits of summer flounder in accordance with these limits through December 31, 2021 or until the 2021 commercial summer flounder quota is taken, whichever occurs sooner.
- 3. <u>Applicability</u>. Except as explicitly provided herein, the marine fishery laws and regulations affecting the summer flounder fishery at G.L. c. 130 and 322 CMR remain unchanged.

Dated: September 23, 2021 Signed: Waniel McKierran Director

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director