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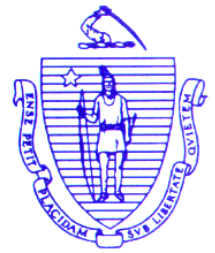
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September 24, 2019

Marine Fisheries Advisory

DMF IMPLEMENTS NEW LOBSTER PROCESSING REGULATIONS AND SCHEDULES PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Marine Fisheries has promulgated emergency regulations to amend the state's processed lobster regulations at 322 CMR 6.32 consistent with recent changes to the state's lobster processing law at G.L. c. 130 §44. These legal amendments allow for additional commerce in shell-on lobster products. Seafood retailers and purveyors may now sell shell-on lobster parts to consumers, including claws and tails (weighing three ounces or more). Additionally, subject to Department of Public Health inspection and authorization, wholesale dealers may process whole live legal sized lobsters into shell-on lobster parts and import shell-on lobster parts from other jurisdictions for processing.

These legal amendments follow a 2018 report by the Division of Marine Fisheries to the state legislature ([Report](#)). The report recommended such amendments as it would create benefits throughout the seafood supply chain. It would allow seafood purveyors and consumers with greater access to desirable, high quality sustainable seafood products, while increasing market access, product availability, and opportunities for those businesses involved in the distribution and processing of lobster.

DMF has scheduled a public hearing and comment period to take comment on these emergency regulations ([Public Hearing Notice](#)). Written public comment will be accepted through 5PM on Wednesday, October 16, 2019. All written public comment should be addressed to Director David Pierce and may be submitted to DMF by e-mail (marine.fish@state.ma.us) or by post (251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114). A public hearing has been scheduled for 9AM on Thursday October 17, 2019 at the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Field Headquarters at 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA. For a copy of the strikethrough regulatory text, please visit our [website](#) or contact Jared Silva (jared.silva@state.ma.us; 617-626-1534)

For more information regarding lobster processing in Massachusetts, please visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.