



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114

p: (617) 626-1520 | f: (617) 626-1509

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



CHARLES D. BAKER  
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO  
Lt. Governor

KATHLEEN A. THEOHARIDES  
Secretary

RONALD S. AMIDON  
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN  
Director

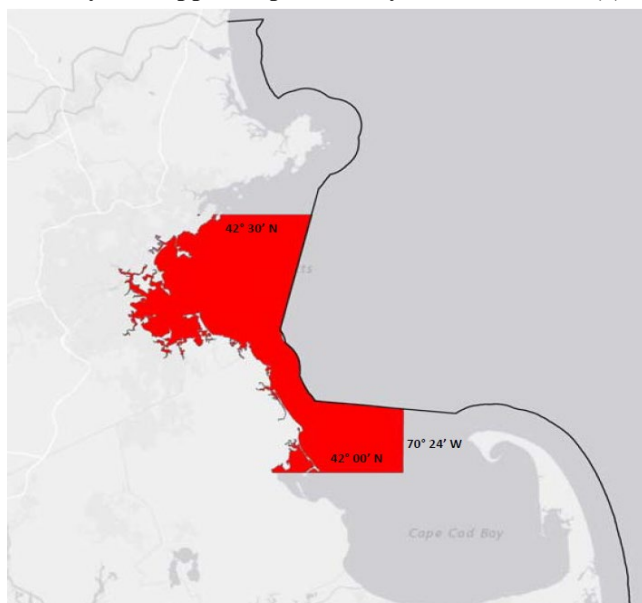
September 30, 2020

### Marine Fisheries Advisory

## REMINDER ON GROUND FISH CLOSURE IN MASSACHUSETTS BAY AND UPPER CAPE COD BAY

The annual commercial groundfish closure in Massachusetts Bay and Upper Cape Cod Bay (right) goes into effect tomorrow, October 1<sup>st</sup>. This closure prohibits commercial fishermen from fishing for regulated groundfish species within, or possessing or landing regulated groundfish species taken from, those waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth south of 42°30' north latitude and north of 42°00' north latitude that are west of 70°24' west longitude from October 1 through January 31. Regulated groundfish species include American plaice, cod haddock, halibut, monkfish, ocean pout, pollock, redfish, windowpane flounder, winter flounder, witch flounder, wolffish, and yellowtail flounder.

### October – January Commercial Groundfish Closure in MA Bay and Upper Cape Cod Bay – 322 CMR 8.05(5)



Vessels may transit the closure in possession of regulated groundfish species provided the fish were taken lawfully outside the closed area and the vessel is not engaged in any fishing activity while inside the closure. Vessels fishing outside the closed area in the adjacent federal zone must be properly permitted by NOAA Fisheries.

This closure applies to any gear capable of catching groundfish, including but not limited to otter trawls, line trawls, and sink gillnets. Exempt from this closure are hook and line gear to target dogfish, bluefish, striped bass, bluefin tuna, or mackerel; raised footrope trawls within the Upper Cape Cod Whiting area; mid-water trawls; purse seines; pots or traps; shellfish dredges; and small bait nets.

For more information regarding the state's management of the regulated groundfish fishery, please visit our website ([www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)) or call DMF at 617-626-1520.