



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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October 16, 2025

Marine Fisheries Advisory

2025 Commercial Tautog Fishery to Close Effective Saturday, October 18

DMF is projecting that 100% of Massachusetts' 2025 commercial tautog quota will be taken on Friday, October 17, 2025. Accordingly, the fishery will close effective 0001 hours on Saturday, October 18, 2025 ([Legal Notice](#)). Unless otherwise notified the commercial tautog fishery will remain closed until it reopens in 2026. During this quota closure period, it is unlawful for any fisher to retain, possess, or land tautog in a manner that does not conform with the state's recreational fishing limits or to offer any tautog for sale, barter, or exchange. For more detail on recreational tautog fishing regulations, visit our [website](#).

Accordingly, seafood dealers are prohibited from purchasing, receiving, or otherwise obtaining tautog from fishers. However, seafood dealers may continue to possess lawfully purchased tautog subject to the following restrictions. Effective Saturday, November 1, 2025, seafood dealers are required to sell off any and all tautog with a 2025 Massachusetts Tautog ID Tag. Then, effective February 28, 2026, all seafood dealers and seafood purveyors are required to liquidate all tautog bearing a 2025 Tautog ID Tag, regardless of state of origin.

In the coming weeks, commercial fishers will receive a letter from DMF describing how to return all unused Tautog ID Tags and the schedule for submitting their Tautog ID Tag Accounting Report. Commercial fishers are to submit monthly trip-level reports by the fifteenth of the following month, even if their permit was not fished. Reports should be sent to: DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930. Failure to submit these reports for all months of the year in a timely manner may result in the non-renewal of a commercial permit and its endorsements in 2026. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2025 fishing season; additional copies can be obtained on the [Trip Level Reporting website](#).

For more information about the management of marine fisheries in Massachusetts, visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.