



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Director

Statement of Permit Conditions: Horseshoe Crab Open Fishing Days for Trawlers

In an effort to reduce regulatory discarding, and in response to recent in-season adjustments to increase the number of open commercial fishing days in the summer flounder trawl fishery, the Division of Marine Fisheries is taking action to adjust the commercial horseshoe crab open fishing days for mobile gear fishermen. Pursuant to the authority at, G.L. c. 130 §§ 2, 17A and 80 and 322 CMR 7.01(7), all 2020 commercial fisherman permits with a regulated Coastal Access Permit and a fluke permit endorsement are hereby conditioned:

- 1. All affected permit holders are hereby exempt from the mobile gear no-fishing days for horseshoe crabs, as described at 322 CMR 6.34(7)(b).**
- 2. All affected permit holders may retain, possess, and land horseshoe crabs while fishing with mobile gear on Fridays and Saturdays.**
- 3. This allowance shall be effective beginning October 9, 2020 and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2020 or when 100% of the 2020 commercial horseshoe crab quota is taken, whichever occurs first.**
- 4. Any mobile gear fisherman possessing horseshoe crabs shall apply with all other applicable horseshoe crab regulations set forth at 322 CMR 6.34.**
- 5. This Statement of Permit Conditions does not exempt the permit holder from any other marine fishery law or regulation of the Commonwealth.**

Any violation of the above stated permit condition is subject to the fines and penalties set forth at G.L. c. 130 §§ 2 and 80, G.L. c. 21A § 10H and 322 CMR 7.01(9), including but not limited to an administrative hearing to suspend or revoke your commercial fisherman permit.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Dated: October 8, 2020

By: 

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director