



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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November 10, 2020
Marine Fisheries Advisory

Commercial Tautog Fishery to Close Effective November 12, 2020

Massachusetts' 2020 commercial tautog quota of 62,797 pounds is projected to be taken on Wednesday, November 11, 2020. Accordingly, the Massachusetts commercial tautog fishery will be closed effective Thursday, November 12, 2020 ([Closure Notice](#)). The commercial fishery will remain closed through August 31, 2021. During the closed period, it is unlawful for fishermen to possess and land tautog for commercial purposes. Additionally, it is unlawful for seafood dealers to purchase or receive tautog from fishermen.

This year DMF implemented new measures regarding commercial tautog tagging. As a result, there are new requirements for commercial fishermen, seafood dealers, and seafood purveyors. Commercial fishermen will receive a letter from DMF in the immediate future describing how to return all unused Tautog ID Tags and how to submit a Tautog ID Tag Accounting Report. Seafood dealers are reminded that they must sell off all tautog that bear a 2020 MA Tautog ID Tag prior to Thursday, November 26, 2020. If such fish cannot be sold off, they must be discarded or disposed of. Lastly, before February 28, 2021, all seafood dealers and purveyors are to liquidate all tautog with a 2020 Tautog ID regardless of state of origin.

Commercial fishermen are required to submit tautog-specific monthly trip-level [reports](#) by the fifteenth of the following month, even if their permit is 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 2021. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2020 fishing season; additional copies can be obtained on the [Trip Level Reporting website](#).

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