



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

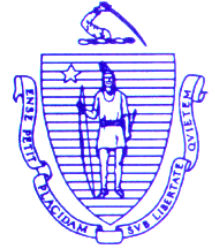
Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, Massachusetts 02114

(617) 626-1520

fax (617) 626-1509



Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Kathleen Theoharides
Secretary

Ronald Amidon
Commissioner

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Deputy Commissioner

November 13, 2019

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Ocean Quahog Dredge Fishery Trip Limit Reduced and New Retail Farmer's Market Permit Category Created

Following the September 19, 2019 Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission meeting, DMF has promulgated a series of regulations affecting commercial fishermen and dealers. This includes reducing the trip limit for the ocean quahog dredge fishery and establishing a new permit category for the retail sale of seafood at farmer's markets. Additionally, new commercial tautog regulations have been implemented and the details set forth in a separate [advisory](#).

Commercial Ocean Quahog Dredge Trip Limit

DMF has reduced the trip limit for the state-waters commercial ocean quahog dredge fishery from 26 cages (or 832 bushels) per trip to 8 cages (or 256 bushels) per trip. This action was taken in response to an industry-based petition and followed several public scoping and comment periods. The purpose of this rule change is to allow ocean quahog populations to be fished for a longer period of time while maintaining this fishery as a small vessel day boat fleet. Moreover, DMF manages the state-waters ocean quahog and surf clam dredge fisheries jointly and the new ocean quahog limit approximates the existing surf clam limit.

Retail Farmer's Market Permit

The sale of seafood at farmer's markets has become more prevalent in recent years. In prior years, DMF authorized this activity through the issuance of other retail seafood dealer permits. Beginning in 2020, DMF will establish a new retail permit category specific to the sale of seafood at farmer's markets. This will increase specificity in the permitting program and allow for more specific guidance to be provided to those public health entities conducting inspections.

You may contact DMF at 617-626-1520 or visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.