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November 15, 2016

Marine Fisheries Advisory

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON SPECIFICATIONS TO ESTABLISH THE 2017 WINTER I SCUP TRIP LIMITS

Under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A and pursuant to the authority found in M.G.L. Ch. 130 §§ 17A & 80 and 322 CMR §§ 6.28(2)(a), 6.41(2)(d) & 7.01(7), the Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) is accepting comment on the following proposals:

- 1. Establish the 2017 Winter I (January 1 – April 30) commercial scup trip limits at 50,000 pounds. This action will complement the federal commercial scup trip limit established by the National Marine Fisheries Service for this period and allow vessels to land lawfully harvested amounts of scup in Massachusetts ports.**

Public comments will be received until 5PM on Friday, December 2, 2016. Written comment may be submitted to Director David Pierce by e-mail to marine.fish@state.ma.us or by post sent to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission will review all comment and vote to adopt these proposed specifications at their December 15, 2016 business meeting. If approved, the Director's Declaration will be published in a local newspaper, the Massachusetts Register, distributed via the *Marine Fisheries* Listserve and posted on the *Marine Fisheries* website.

For more information regarding the management of scup in Massachusetts, please visit our website (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries) or call the Division of Marine Fisheries at 617-626-1520.