



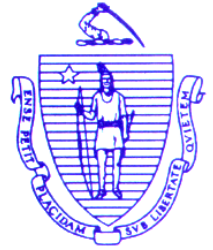
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Deval Patrick
Governor
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Secretary
Mary B. Griffin
Commissioner

November 21, 2013

Notice of Public Hearings Scheduled for December 19, 2013

Under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A and pursuant to the authority found at M.G.L. c. 130 § 2, 17A, 38 and 80, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFC) have scheduled a public hearing and public comment period to accept comment on proposed regulations to amend 322 CMR 3.00, 4.00, 6.00 and 8.00.

1. **Winter Flounder Management (322 CMR 6.03)**. Require northeast federal multi-species groundfish permit holders to comply with the 500 pound state-waters commercial trip limit for winter flounder while fishing in state waters.
2. **Asian Horseshoe Crabs (322 CMR 6.34)**. Prohibit the importation, possession and sale of three species of horseshoe crab (*Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda*, *tachypleus gigas*, and *Trachypleus tridentatus*), commonly referred to as Asian horseshoe crabs, to prevent the spread of certain pathogens and parasites associated with these crabs.
3. **Expand the Small Mesh Squid Fishery (322 CMR 8.07)**. Authorize a year-round small mesh squid fishery in the waters south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, between 70° 46' west longitude to the west and 70° 00' west longitude to the east.
4. **Authorization to Sell Non-Conforming Aquaculture Raised Finfish (322 CMR 14.02)**. Exempt aquaculture raised marine finfish from complying with the state's regulations for wild caught fish, provided all aquaculture raised fish are documented as such and paperwork is maintained that documents transactions from the aquaculture operation to the receiving dealer.
5. **Marking of Lobster Gear (322 CMR 3.04 and 4.13)**. Eliminate all regulatory references to branding lobster gear for the purpose of marking it.
6. **Groundfish Rolling Closures Clarifications (322 CMR 8.12)**. Make explicit that commercial fishermen may transit the groundfish rolling closures in possession of groundfish, provided the groundfish was lawfully harvested from outside the rolling closure and the vessel is not actively fishing inside the rolling closure.
7. **Reorganization of Bluefish Regulations (322 CMR 4.05 and 6.18)**. To codify all bluefish regulations in one regulatory section, move the existing bluefish regulations at 322 CMR 4.05 to 322 CMR 6.18.

Public Hearing Schedule

**Thursday, December 19, 2013 at the Jonathan Bourne Public Library Community Room.
19 Sandwich Road, Bourne, MA 02535.
From 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.**

Public comments will be accepted until 12:00 PM (Noon) on Thursday, December 26, 2013. Please e-mail all public comments to jared.silva@state.ma.us or send to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.

For further information or to obtain a copy of the full proposed regulations please contact Jared Silva by phone (617-626-1534) or through e-mail (jared.silva@state.ma.us), or visit our website (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).