



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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### Marine Fisheries Advisory

## **Stakeholder Meetings Scheduled to Address 2023 Management of Commercial Summer Flounder and Horseshoe Crab Fisheries**

The Division of Marine Fisheries will host a pair of stakeholder meetings on the evening of December 13 in New Bedford to address the management of the commercial summer flounder and horseshoe crab fisheries. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss recent fishery performance and quota utilization in order to inform potential regulatory and policy changes for the upcoming 2023 fishing season.

The meetings will be held in the first-floor classroom at SMAST East, located at 836 South Rodney French Boulevard, New Bedford, MA 02744. The summer flounder meeting will begin at 4PM and the horseshoe crab meeting will follow at 6PM. As the SMAST East parking lot gate locks afterhours, attendees are encouraged to park in the adjacent gravel overflow parking lot accessible through the SMAST West driveway, located next door at 706 South Rodney French Boulevard.

### Summer Flounder Fishery

At 4PM, DMF will host a stakeholder meeting on the commercial summer flounder fishery. The commercial summer flounder fishery has not utilized its available quota in recent years, and this year it appears only about 50% of the quota will be taken. With the 2023 quota expected to be set at a similar level to 2022, DMF seeks feedback on how to best enhance the utilization of this quota to the benefit of user groups and the state's seafood industry.

### Horseshoe Crab Fishery

At 6PM, DMF will host a stakeholder meeting on the commercial horseshoe crab fishery. A number of issues were raised during the 2022 horseshoe crab fishery including shifting effort and demand in bait and biomedical fisheries; appropriate trip limits for bait and biomedical harvesters; best management practices for the biomedical hand harvest and trawl fisheries; and concerns regarding the harvest of horseshoe crabs during the spring spawning period. In order to address these matters for the 2023 fishing season – and beyond, as well as others germane to the horseshoe crab fishery, DMF seeks stakeholder feedback.

For more information about these stakeholder meetings, please contact Jared Silva  
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