



David E. Pierce, PhD  
Director

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

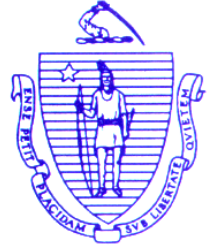
## Division of Marine Fisheries

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November 30, 2018

### Public Hearing Notice State-Waters Multi-Species Groundfish

Under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A and pursuant to the authority found at M.G.L. c. 130 §§ 2, 17A, 80 and 104, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is proposing draft regulatory amendments to 322 CMR §7.00 and 8.00 to address fishing for multi-species groundfish in state-waters.

1. **April Closure in MA Bay.** DMF is proposing to close those state-waters between 42°00' N latitude (Plymouth) and the MA/NH border to fishing for multi-species groundfish by state and federal commercial groundfish permit holders during the period of April 1 – April 30. DMF may rescind this closure on an annual basis if commercial landings by State-Waters Regulated Fishery Groundfish Endorsement during the period of May 1<sup>st</sup> – March 30<sup>th</sup> demonstrate that keeping April open will not result in an exceedance of the annual state-waters set-aside for any multi-species groundfish stock and federal conservation objectives are not compromised.
2. **Control Date.** DMF is proposing to enact a December 31, 2018 control date for the State-Waters Regulated Fishery Groundfish Endorsement. The Director may utilize this control date in the future, subject to another public hearing, to further limit access and participation based on prior performance.
3. **Owner Operator Requirement.** DMF is proposing to make the State-Waters Regulated Fishery Groundfish Endorsement an owner-operator permit effective January 1, 2020. This would require that when fishing activity is being conducted under the authority of the State-Waters Regulated Fishery Groundfish Endorsement then the named individual on the permit must be onboard the vessel.

#### Public Hearing Schedule

The Division of Marine Fisheries has scheduled two public hearings to take comment on these proposals. The public hearings will be held on:

6PM  
January 9, 2019  
DMF's Annisquam River Station  
30 Emerson Avenue  
Gloucester, MA 01930

6PM  
January 10, 2019  
Hotel 1620  
180 Water Street  
Plymouth, MA 02360

#### Public Comment Instructions

The Division of Marine Fisheries will also accept public comment through 5PM on Tuesday, January 15, 2019. Please address all written comments to Director Pierce and submit to DMF by e-mail at [marine.fish@state.ma.us](mailto:marine.fish@state.ma.us) or by post to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.