



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**Division of Marine Fisheries**  
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*Marine Fisheries Advisory*

**REMINDER: Public Hearing on Draft Framework to Permit and Authorize  
Removal, Possession, and Disposal of Fishing Gear Debris**

This serves as a reminder that this coming Monday — December 15 — at 6PM, DMF will host a virtual public hearing to take comment on a draft regulatory framework that will permit and authorize the removal, possession and disposal of fishing gear debris from the Commonwealth's coasts and waters.

To attend this public hearing please register using this [link](#). Written public comment will be accepted through 5PM on Tuesday, December 16. Please submit written comments by e-mail ([marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov)) to the attention of Director Daniel McKiernan. A recording of the virtual public hearing will be published to DMF's [YouTube Channel](#) and all materials relevant to this public hearing proposal have been published to DMF's [proposed regulations webpage](#).

The draft regulatory framework proposes to allow: (1) DMF and the Massachusetts Environmental Police to remove, possess, and dispose of any and all fishing gear debris encountered; (2) any persons to remove, possess, and dispose of fishing gear debris located above mean-low tide; (3) commercial fishers to remove, possess, and dispose of fishing gear debris incidentally encountered when lawfully fishing; and (4) DMF to permit entities to remove, possess, and dispose of fishing gear debris below mean-low tide under certain circumstances that ensure the project is likely to be successful and will not impact intact fishing gear. Additionally, it will reinforce municipal requirements that all aquaculture gear be sufficiently tagged and marked with information that makes the aquaculture gear identifiable to a permit holder to enable municipal authorities to address the recovery of derelict aquaculture gear.

For more information, please visit our website:  
[www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)