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*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

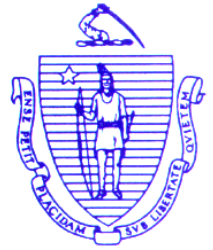
## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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**Deval Patrick**  
*Governor*  
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### *Marine Fisheries Advisory*

## **Winter Fluke Pilot Program for Weekly Trip Limits To Open January 1, 2015 at 1,000 Pounds per Week**

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The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) will continue its pilot Winter-time Fluke Weekly Trip Limit Fishery for 2015. To participate in this pilot program, fluke permit endorsement holders must obtain a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from *Marine Fisheries*, in accordance with the directions below.

Pilot program participants will be authorized to land 1,000 lbs of fluke per week beginning on January 1, 2015. Those fluke permit endorsement holders who do not participate in the pilot program will be prohibited from landing fluke until February 1, 2015, at which time they will be subject to the 500 pound possession and landing limit. Once 25% of the overall 2015 fluke quota is projected to be landed, all fluke permit endorsement holders will be reduced to 100 lbs until April 22, 2015, regardless of whether they hold an LOA or not.

For reporting and compliance purposes, a week is considered Sunday through Saturday and the weekly landing limit will be enforced through dealer records and Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs). Additionally, to ensure accurate quota monitoring, fluke endorsement holders will only be authorized to participate in this pilot program if they sell their fluke to approved federal reporting primary buyers who report their fluke transactions daily to the SAFIS database.

### **To Obtain an LOA to Participate in the Wintertime Fluke Pilot Program:**

Send a request, via fax or e-mail, to the attention of Jared Silva (fax: 617 626-1509 or email: [jared.silva@state.ma.us](mailto:jared.silva@state.ma.us)) at *Marine Fisheries*. All requests must include the following information:

- Name of Permit Holder
- Permit Holder Address
- Permitted Vessel Name
- Permitted Vessel Length
- Permitted Vessel Documentation Number
- Six-Digit DMF Permit Identification Number
- Intended Primary Buyer and Landing Location