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Marine Fisheries Advisory

COMMERCIAL FLUKE FISHERY TO REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL FEBRUARY 1 TRIP
LIMIT REDUCED TO 500-LBS

To accommodate the mandated reduction in the 2008 commercial fluke quota and prevent a premature closure of the fishery, *Marine Fisheries* is taking action to postpone the opening of the fishery until February 1 and lower the trip limit from 2,500 to 500 lbs. in accordance with 322 CMR 6.22.

Last year's winter fishery resulted in only 8 days of fishing before the 2,500 trip limit was lowered to 100 lbs. While this rule results in less opportunity to target summer flounder, it will accommodate by-catch of summer flounder for more vessels during the winter months. The trip limit will be lowered to 100 lbs. prior to 30% of the state's quota being reached.

Commercial fishermen are reminded that it is unlawful to land or unload fluke from 8:00 P.M. through 6:00 A.M.