



**David E. Pierce**  
*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

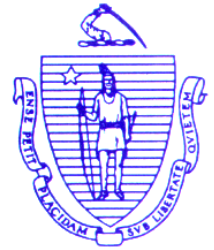
## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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December 21, 2015

### *Marine Fisheries Advisory*

## **2016 WINTER FLUKE PILOT PROGRAM FOR WEEKLY LANDING LIMITS TO OPEN ON FEBRUARY 1, 2016 WITH A 1,000 LB WEEKLY LIMIT**

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The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) will continue its Period 1 Winter Fluke Pilot Program for a Weekly Trip Limit Fishery (Pilot Program) in 2016. The Period 1 commercial fishery opens on February 1, 2016. Participating vessels will be authorized to land 1,000 pounds of fluke per week, as opposed to being subject to a 500 pound daily limit. The possession and landing of fluke in January is prohibited. Once 25% of the overall 2016 fluke quota is projected to be landed, all fluke permit endorsement holders will be reduced to 100 lbs per trip or per day, whichever period is longer. This reduced limit will remain in effect until April 22, 2016, regardless of whether the vessel is participating in the Pilot Program 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 participate in this pilot program, fluke permit endorsement holders must obtain a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from *Marine Fisheries*. To obtain this LOA, 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)). *Marine Fisheries* will begin processing authorizations in mid-January 2016.

### All requests must include the following information:

- Permit Holder;
- Vessel Name;
- Vessel Documentation Number;
- Six-Digit DMF Permit Identification Number
- Intended Primary Buyer and Landing Location.