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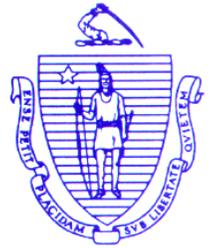
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December 6, 2017

Marine Fisheries Advisory

2018 COMMERCIAL PERMIT RENEWAL PERIOD

2018 Commercial Permit renewal applications were mailed this week. This is a reminder that limited entry permits and permits that have limited entry endorsements or striped bass endorsements **must be renewed by February 28, 2018** or they will be forfeited. If this deadline applies to any of your permits or endorsements, please be sure to have your renewal application submitted to one of our offices by Wednesday, February 28, 2018.

The following are a few additional reminders about this year's renewal process:

2017 Commercial Permit Expiration Date: All 2017 commercial permits expire on December 31, 2017. If you intend to fish in early January 2018, make sure to submit your renewal application as soon as possible.

Shellfish Harvesting, Handling, and Transport Affidavit: All commercial shellfish permit endorsement holders must sign and submit this affidavit with their 2018 renewal or new commercial permit application. Affidavits were mailed with permit renewal applications, are available in our offices, and can be downloaded [here](#). The contents of the affidavit will be adopted as conditions to all 2018 commercial shellfish permits and permit endorsements. Any applications submitted for a shellfish endorsement without this signed affidavit will be returned as incomplete.

Tautog Endorsement: Recently approved regulations establish a *new* commercial tautog regulated fishery permit endorsement (Tautog endorsement). The Tautog endorsement will be required for any commercial fisherman or vessel to harvest, land, or possess tautog for commercial purposes, beginning in 2018. For 2018, the Tautog endorsement is open entry and available to all current and new commercial permit holders.

The agency also adopted a control date of August 28, 2017 for the Tautog endorsement. Any fisherman who did not participate in the commercial tautog fishery (at a threshold to be determined) prior to August 28, 2017 may be subject to future management actions, including but not limited to limited entry. Notice will be sent if the agency seeks to utilize the control date to further limit catch or participation in the fishery in the future.

All applicants for a Tautog endorsement must submit a Tautog Control Date Notice, found [here](#), and add the appropriate fee (\$30 for residents/\$60 for non-residents) to their application amount. Any applications submitted for a Tautog endorsement without this signed control notice will be returned as incomplete.

Trip-Level Reporting: In order to renew your permit, you must be in compliance with all reporting requirements. If you have questions about trip-level reporting or your reporting status, please contact the DMF Statistics Project at (978) 282-0308 ext. 101 or dmf.stats@state.ma.us.

Permit Office Locations: Your permits can be renewed through the mail or at any of our [locations](#) in Gloucester (30 Emerson Ave.), Boston (251 Causeway St., 4th Floor), or New Bedford (1213 Purchase St., 3rd floor) using a personal check or money order. **Note:** Our New Bedford office will be moving to 836 South Rodney French Blvd, New Bedford, on or about February 1, 2018. Stay tuned for updates.

If you have any questions about your renewal, please contact *Marine Fisheries* at (617) 626-1520 or marine.fish@state.ma.us.