



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
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February 23, 2026
Marine Fisheries Advisory

Division of Marine Fisheries Public Hearing Postponed to February 26 via Zoom

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) was scheduled to host an in-person public hearing on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. However, given the weather condition and the ongoing State of Emergency in the Commonwealth, DMF is rescheduling its public hearing on commercial and recreational fishing limits to Thursday, February 26, 2026 via Zoom at 6PM. To attend this hearing, you can register for the public hearing [here](#). A recording of the public hearing will be published to [DMF's YouTube channel](#) on Friday, February 27, 2026.

DMF is also similarly delaying the close of the written public comment period. Whereas the public comment period was scheduled to close at 5PM on Friday, February 27, 2026, the comment period will now close at 11:59PM on Sunday, March 1, 2026. Please submit all written public comment by e-mail (marine.fish@mass.gov) to the attention of Director Dan McKiernan.

The purpose of this public hearing and comment period is to hear from stakeholders on a series of proposed regulations affecting commercial and recreational fisheries. This includes amendments to: (1) adjust the commercial fishing limits for summer flounder, black sea bass, and scup and the recreational limits for bluefish; (2) reallocate quota from the horseshoe crab bait fishery to the biomedical fishery; (3) standardize sea scallop maximum dredge width across state and federal jurisdictions; (4) eliminate superfluous regulated fishing permit endorsements; and (5) modify Offshore and Coastal Lobster permit rules. Additional details on these proposals are available on DMF's proposed regulations [website](#) and a full copy of the updated public hearing notice can be found [here](#).

DMF will review and consider public input in the development of final regulations. DMF anticipates the final recommended final regulatory actions will be presented to the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission at their March 17, 2026 business meeting. The business meeting is currently scheduled for 9AM at the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA. Meeting materials are generally published 5-days prior to the business meeting. Please visit the MFAC's website for more details about this Commission and to obtain meeting agendas and materials.

Please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries