



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberly Driscoll
Lt. Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Thomas K. O'Shea
Commissioner

Daniel J. McKiernan
Director

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

Division of Marine Fisheries Adds Second Virtual Public Hearing and Extends Public Comment Period on Draft Proposals Relevant to Commercial and Recreational Fishing Limits

Given continued challenges related to the recent blizzard, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is adding a second virtual public hearing to address commercial and recreational fishing limits. The first hearing remains scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026 via Zoom at 6PM via Zoom ([register here](#)). The second hearing has been added for Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 6PM via Zoom ([register here](#)). The written public comment period will also be extended through Friday, March 6, 2026. Please submit all written public comment by e-mail (marine.fish@mass.gov) to the attention of Director Dan McKiernan.

The purpose of these public hearings 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