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Director

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

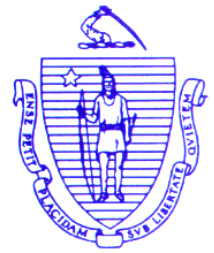
## Division of Marine Fisheries

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Deval Patrick  
Governor

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.

Secretary

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February 4, 2014

### Additional Public Hearing Scheduled February 18, 2014

Under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A § 2 and pursuant to the authority found at M.G.L. c. 130 § 2, 17A, 21, and 80 the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission have scheduled an additional public hearing to accept comment on proposed regulations to amend 322 CMR 6.00 and 7.00, as described below. **The public hearing is scheduled for February 18, 2014 at 9:30 AM at the Katharine Cornell Theater in Tisbury, MA.**

1. **Commercial Striped Bass Tagging (322 CMR 6.07)**. To comply with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's interstate management plan for striped bass, DMF is proposing to establish a point-of-sale striped bass tagging program.
2. **Commercial Striped Bass Management (322 CMR 6.07, 7.01, 7.04 and 7.07)**. To improve market conditions, fish availability, regulatory compliance and fishing safety, DMF is proposing a number of changes to the commercial striped bass management and permitting regulations. The proposals includes adjustments to the season start date, open fishing days, daily catch limits, dealer purchasing protocol, fishery access and permit application and renewal deadlines.
3. **Fish Pot Restrictions and Permitting (322 CMR 6.12, 6.15, 6.31, 7.03, 7.06 and 7.09)**. To improve compliance with DMF regulations affecting fish pot fishing, DMF is proposing to make all fish pot permits owner operator; liberalize permit endorsement transfer rules; limit the number of fish and conch pot limits that can be fished on a vessel; authorize the use of black sea bass pots to catch tautog; and clarify existing trap tag requirements.
4. **Knobbed Whelk Minimum Size (322 CMR 6.21)**. To limit further depletion of the knobbed whelk resource, DMF is proposing to increase the minimum size for knobbed whelk from 2  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches to 2  $\frac{7}{8}$  inches for 2014 and 3 inches beginning in 2015.
5. **Fishing Limits and Permitting for Dragnets in Nantucket Sound (322 CMR 6.21, 6.34 and 7.01)**. To limit the further depletion of the knobbed whelk and horseshoe crab resources, DMF is proposing to reduce the mobile gear horseshoe crab trip limit from 600 crab limit to a 300 crab limit; implement a 500 pound mobile gear trip limit for mixed knobbed and channeled whelk; and for 2015, establish a limited entry permit endorsement for the taking of knobbed and channeled whelk by Coastal Access Permit holders.
6. **Improving Recreational Fishing Compliance (322 CMR 6.03 and 6.41)**. To improve compliance with recreational fishing minimum sizes and trip limits, DMF is proposing to hold for-hire operators and permit holders liable for violations of recreational fishing regulations that occur onboard the vessel; establish rules authorizing the at-sea filleting of certain species; and implement guidelines for enforcing bag limits when catch among anglers has been co-mingled.

For a more detailed public hearing notice please visit our website and view the public hearing notices for [February 11 and 12, 2014](#) and [February 18 and 19, 2014](#). For further information or to obtain a copy of the full proposed regulations please contact Jared Silva by phone (617-626-1534) or through e-mail ([jared.silva@state.ma.us](mailto:jared.silva@state.ma.us)).

Public comments will be accepted until 5:00 PM on Friday, February 21, 2014. Please e-mail all public comments to [jared.silva@state.ma.us](mailto:jared.silva@state.ma.us) or send the attention of Jared Silva at 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.