

## **DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION:**

## **COMMERCIAL PERIOD I SUMMER FLOUNDER TRIP LIMIT REDUCTION**

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c. 30A § 3 and under the authority of G.L. c. 130 §§ 17A, 21 and 80 and 322 CMR §§6.22(2)(c), 6.41(2), and 7.01(7) the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries makes the following Declaration pertaining to the commercial trip limit for the Period I summer flounder fishery:

- 1. 25% of the Commonwealth's commercial summer flounder quota is projected to be taken by Saturday, April 10, 2021.
- 2. In accordance with 322 CMR §6.22(2)(c), effective 6:00 AM on Sunday, April 11, 2021, commercial fishermen are prohibited from possessing or landing more than 100 pounds of summer flounder in Massachusetts.
- 3. In accordance with 322 CMR §6.22(2)(h), any summer flounder lawfully retained in excess of this limit shall be landed by 8:00 PM on April 10, 2021.
- 4. This 100 pound limit shall remain in effect until the end of Period 1 on April 22, 2021.
- 5. Letters of Authorization to participate in the 2021 Wintertime Summer Flounder Pilot Program Allowance for Vessels to Possess Multiple State Limits, issued pursuant to G.L. c. 130, §§17 and 80 and 322 CMR 7.01(7) are hereby invalidated.
- 6. In accordance with 322 CMR § 7.07(4), effective April 11, 2021 through April 22, 2021, Massachusetts seafood dealers are prohibited from obtaining summer flounder from any commercial fisherman in a quantity that exceeds the 100 pound limit established at 322 CMR §6.22(2)(c).

Dated: April 6, 2021

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Daniel J. McKiernan, Director