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Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

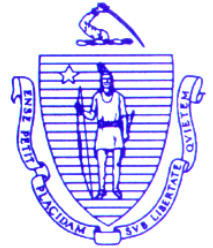
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July 17, 2017

Marine Fisheries Advisory

2017 COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY TO CLOSE EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2017

Massachusetts' 2017 commercial summer flounder (fluke) quota of 385,988 pounds is projected to be taken on Tuesday, July 18, 2017. Accordingly, Massachusetts fluke fishery is closed effective Wednesday, July 19, 2017 ([Closure Notice](#)). Commercial fishermen and dealers are reminded that all fluke must be landed by 8PM on Tuesday night.

The Massachusetts commercial fluke fishery is scheduled to reopen on February 1, 2018. During the closed period, it is unlawful for fishermen to possess and land fluke for commercial purposes or in a manner that does not conform to the state's recreational fishing regulations. Additionally, it is unlawful for seafood dealers to purchase or receive fluke from fishermen.

Commercial fishermen are to submit monthly trip-level reports by the fifteenth of the following month, even if their permit as not fished. Reports should be sent to DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930. Failure to submit these reports for all months of the year in a timely manner may result in the non-renewal of a commercial permit and its endorsements in 2018. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2017 fishing season; additional copies can be obtained on the [Trip Level Reporting website](#).

For more information about the management of fluke in Massachusetts, contact DMF at 617-626-1520 or visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.