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August 18 , 2008  
Marine Fisheries Advisory

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS  
SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 17 & 18, 2008**

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Under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 30A and pursuant to the authority found in M.G.L. Ch. 130 ss. 17A, 38, 80 & 104, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC) have scheduled a hearing to accept comments on:

1. **DMF proposal to prohibit any person from harvesting cod from the Cod Conservation Zone during December and January (322 CMR 8.15).** This proposal shortens the closed period by one month (February) that has been in place since 2005. The rule would continue the prohibition on gillnets, otter trawls, mid-water trawl, seines and all hook-and-line gears including longlines, rod-and-reel, and handlines in the Conservation Zone.
2. **DMF proposal to extend the moratorium for an additional three years on river herring harvest, sale and possession through 2011 (322 CMR 6.17).** ([Click to see public hearing presentation on moratorium extension PDF](#)) DMF seeks comments on possible amendments to the tolerance allowed for incidental by-catch and possession in other fisheries such as the sea herring fishery where fish are not sorted at-sea. Current tolerance of 5% for any batch of fish by count may be amended to a percentage as low as 1% by weight.
3. **Public petition and DMF proposal to establish a 50-blue crab per person per day possession (322 CMR 6.19) for recreational and commercial fishermen.**

**Public hearings have been scheduled for:**

**Tuesday, September 16th (6PM) at the Radisson-Plymouth Harbor (180 Water St.);  
Wednesday, September 17th (6PM) at the Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station (30**

**Emerson Ave. , Gloucester);  
Thursday, September 18th (5:30PM) at the Tisbury Town Hall (51 Spring St., Vineyard  
Haven).**

Comments received by e-mail ([marine.fish@state.ma.us](mailto:marine.fish@state.ma.us)), fax (617.626.1509), or mail (251 Causeway St., Suite 400; Boston, MA 02114) will be accepted until 5PM on Friday, September 19, 2008.

Contact DMF for regulations and further details or visit our website at  
[www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).