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8/7/12 Commercial Striped Bass Fishery to Close Thursday, August 9, 2012

Media Contact

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400 Boston, MA 02114 (617) 626-1520 Fax (617) 626-1509 Email: <u>marine.fish@state.ma.us</u> The Commonwealth's 1,057,783 pound 2012 commercial striped bass quota is projected to be taken by the end of the day on Wednesday, August 8, 2012. The fishery will close at 00:01 hours on Thursday, August 9, 2012. From that point forward, Massachusetts commercial fishermen will be prohibited from possessing and landing striped bass for commercial purposes until the 2013 commercial striped bass season opens.

Dealers are reminded that the purchase or receipt of striped bass from a Massachusetts commercial fishermen is prohibited beginning on Thursday, August 9, 2012. Additionally, through Monday, August 13, 2012 all striped bass imported into Massachusetts must meet or exceed the 34" minimum size limit. Beginning on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 all striped bass imported into Massachusetts must bear a tag designating the state of origin and must meet or exceed that state's minimum size.

Commercial fishermen are reminded that even if their permit was not fished, July 2012 trip-level reports are due no later than August 15, 2012 and August 2012 trip-level reports are due no later than September 15, 2012. Failure to submit these reports for all months of the year in a timely manner may result in the non-renewal of your commercial permit and its endorsements in 2013. Trip level reports should be sent to DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2012 commercial fishing season and additional copies can be obtained at: <u>Trip-Level Reporting</u>.

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