



Energy and Environmental Affairs

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Commercial Tautog Fishery to Close Effective Wednesday, October 3

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The Division of Marine Fisheries (*MarineFisheries*) has projected that 100% of the 2012 commercial tautog quota will be landed by Tuesday, October 2, 2012. Consequently the 2012 commercial tautog fishery will close effective 0001 hours on Wednesday, October 3, 2012. The commercial tautog fishery is scheduled to re-open on April 16, 2013. Dealers are reminded that it is unlawful to purchase tautog from Massachusetts commercial fishermen when the commercial fishery is closed.



In an on-going effort to conserve and rebuild local tautog stocks the annual Massachusetts commercial tautog quota was established in 2007; the 2012 annual Massachusetts commercial tautog quota was set at 61,180 lbs. Massachusetts regulations, established by *MarineFisheries* with the approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, allocate 28% of the annual quota to the spring period fishery, which opens annually on April 16, and the remainder of the quota to the fall fishery period, which opens annually on September 1. Quota totals and regulations can be monitored through the *MarineFisheries* web site at: [Current Landing of Quota Managed Species](#) .

Commercial fishermen are reminded that monthly trip-level reports are due no later than the 15th of the following month, even if the permit was not fished. Failure to submit these reports for all months of the year in a timely manner may postpone the issuance or result in the non-renewal of your 2013 commercial fishing permit. Blank trip level reporting forms and instructions were mailed to commercial permit holders prior to the beginning of the 2012 commercial fishing season and additional copies can be obtained at: http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf/commercialfishing/trip_level.htm.

Trip level reports should be sent to:

DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930.

If you have any questions pertaining to this quota managed fishery closure or tautog regulations, contact Jared Silva by phone (617-626-1534) or e-mail (jared.silva@state.ma.us).

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