



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC)

FROM: Daniel J. McKiernan, Director

DATE: August 11, 2023

SUBJECT: **Wildlife Compact**

The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC) is an agreement among participating states that creates reciprocity whereby if a resident of a member state commits a wildlife violation in another member state a resident's home state may sanction the individual's hunting and fishing privileges in their home state. Moreover, if a violator either fails to comply with the terms of a citation or is convicted in another member state, then they will be entered into the compact's database their home state shall suspend that individual's hunting and fishing privileges or treat the conviction as though it occurred in the violator's home state, should the violation also have been a violation of law in the violator's home state. In summary, the IWVC is designed to reduce poaching by allowing states to hold violators accountable in numerous jurisdictions.

In late 2022, former Governor Baker signed into law Chapter 145 of the Acts of 2022. The act establishes the IWVC at [G.L. c. 131B](#). Section 7 of Chapter 145 of the Acts of 2022 requires the state to develop implementing regulations. The Department of Fish and Game is currently working to develop such draft regulations for both the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). I anticipate the draft regulations will be completed later this year for final implementation in 2024. Accordingly, DMF will likely hold public hearings this upcoming winter. I will keep the MFAC briefed on the progress of this rule making initiative.

For DMF, this will allow Massachusetts to sanction a resident's recreational and commercial fishing permits for similar violations in another member state. For instance, if an individual is convicted of poaching striped bass in Rhode Island, then Massachusetts could deny this individual access to fishing permits in Massachusetts based on this conviction.