



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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April 19, 2024

Marine Fisheries Advisory

DMF TO ADOPT NEW RULES AFFECTING COMMERCIAL FISHING PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

Effective April 26, 2024, DMF will adopt several new rules affecting commercial fishing permits and transfers. These new rules are described below:

- Electronic Display of Commercial Permit. DMF will now allow commercial fishers to display their commercial fishing permit electronically, rather than having to produce a hard copy. This change is occurring as DMF has transitioned to a new permitting system that will issue permits in a PDF format and allow for online renewal next year.
- Immediate Family Transfers. DMF will allow commercial fishers to transfer latent, but otherwise transferable, limited entry permit endorsements to immediate family members. This is consistent with what has been allowed in the coastal lobster fishery. The definition of immediate family is also being modernized to include step and adoptive relationships.
- Transferability Standards for Fluke, Black Sea Bass, and Tautog Endorsements. DMF is lowering the transfer standards for fluke, black sea bass, and tautog endorsements. Whereas previously these endorsements would have had to have been actively fished for four out of the past five years to be transferable, they now only need to be actively fished two out of the past five years. The threshold for actively fished remains unchanged, requiring at least one trip limit for each species be landed in aggregate annually. DMF has also updated its [policy](#) on the rod and reel transfer of these endorsements.

For more information, please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.