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Marine Fisheries Advisory

Notice of Public Comment:

2014/2015 Spiny Dogfish Specifications

Trip Limit Increase

The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Spiny Dogfish Management Board recently voted in favor of increasing the 2014/2015 spiny dogfish trip limit from 4,000 to 5,000 pounds, effective September 8, 2014. To allow for the possession and landing of this additional spiny dogfish in Massachusetts, the Director must amend the state's existing 4,000 pound trip limit by declaration.

Accordingly, pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c.30A, §3 and under the authority of G.L. c.130, §17A and 322 CMR § 322 CMR 6.35(5), the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) is now accepting public comment on the following proposed actions affecting the commercial spiny dogfish fishery:

- 1. Effective September 8, 2014 it shall be unlawful for any commercial vessel or commercial permit holder to possess or land in excess of 5,000-lbs. of spiny dogfish per trip or per calendar day, whichever is longer; and**
- 2. Once the Director has determined that the northern region's quota has been reached, it shall be unlawful for commercial fishermen to land or possess any spiny dogfish.**

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission will vote on this proposed specification by fax poll prior to the close of business on Friday, September 5, 2014. Pending their approval, this increased trip limit will be effective on September 8, 2014. Notification of any trip limit change will be published in a local newspaper, the Massachusetts Register, distributed through *Marine Fisheries* Listserv and posted on the *Marine Fisheries* website.

Instructions for Public Comment:

Written public comments will be accepted until the close of business on September 3, 2014. Please address all comments to Director Paul Diodati. Comments can be sent by e-mail to marine.fish@state.ma.us, by mail to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114 or faxed to 617-626-1509.

For more information about the management of spiny dogfish and other fish species in Massachusetts please visit our website at: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.