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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposal to Increase Recreational and Commercial Lobster Permit Fees

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c.30A, § 2 and under the authority of G.L. c. 7 § 3B, the Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*), on behalf of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance (ANF), has scheduled a public hearing and public comment period to accept comment on draft regulations at 801 CMR § 4.00 to increase the fees for recreational and commercial lobster permits. This action is being proposed to comply with Chapter 165, Acts of 2014 and Outside Section 273 of the FY15 State Operating Budget, which together require *Marine Fisheries* and ANF to adjust the fees to fund *Marine Fisheries*' ventless trap survey program, an ongoing cooperative research project that effectively tracks population trends of lobster stocks in the waters of the Commonwealth. Additionally, ANF is proposing to amend their *Marine Fisheries* permit fee regulations at 801 CMR § 4.00 so that they match the existing permit fees previously established by statute.

The following changes to the lobster permit fee schedule are being proposed:

Permit Type	Current Fee	Proposed Increase	Proposed Fee
Resident Com. Lobster (Offshore/Coastal)	\$260	\$50	\$310
Non-Resident Com. Lobster* (Offshore/Coastal)	\$520	\$50	\$570
Resident Student Lobster	\$65	\$50	\$115
Non-Resident Student Lobster	\$130	\$50	\$180
Resident Non-Commercial Lobster and Crab	\$40	\$15	\$55
Non-Resident Non- Commercial Lobster and Crab	\$60	\$15	\$75

Public Hearing Schedule
Monday, November 3, 2014 at 6:00 PM
Division of Marine Fisheries Annisquam River Station
30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930

Written public comments will be accepted until 5:00 PM on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. Please address all comments to the Division of Marine Fisheries. Comments can be sent by e-mail to marine.fish@state.ma.us or by mail to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.

To obtain a copy of the proposed regulations please visit the public hearing notice section on our website (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries). For more information regarding the public hearing or the regulatory proposals, contact Jared Silva by phone (617-626-1534) or through e-mail (jared.silva@state.ma.us).