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May 2, 2012

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Notice of Public Hearings:

**Commercial Lobster V-Notch Regulations for Southern New England,
Annual Amendments to Recreational Black Sea Bass, Scup and Fluke Rules, and
Adjustments to the Recreational Minimum Size and Bag Limit for Gulf of Maine Cod.**

Under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 30A and pursuant to the authority found in M.G.L. Ch. 130 s. 17A & 21, the Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFC) have scheduled two public hearings to accept comments on emergency regulations to amend 322 CMR 6.00, as filed on April 30, 2012 and described below. The MFC will vote to adopt these regulations on a permanent basis at its June 7, 2012 business meeting.

1. V-Notch Requirements for Lobster Management Area (LMA) 2: As effective May 1, 2012, all commercial lobster permit holders authorized to fish in LMA 2 must, prior to discarding, carve a v-shaped notch in the base of a specific pelvic flipper in all legal sized egg-bearing lobsters. The v-shaped notch must be between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in the base of the pelvic flipper immediately to the right of the center flipper as viewed from the back of the lobster.
2. 2012 Recreational Rules for Scup, Black Sea Bass and Fluke: Adopt the species-specific seasons, bag limits and minimum sizes as described below.

Recreational Scup

Mode	Season	Bag Limit	Size
Private	May 1 - December 31	20-fish/angler	10.5"
For Hire	May 1 - May 10 and June 25 - December 31	20-fish/angler	11"
For Hire Bonus	May 11 - June 24	45-fish/angler	11"

Recreational Black Sea Bass

Season	Bag Limit	Size
May 11 - June 24	10-fish/angler	14"
June 25 - October 31	20-fish/angler	14"

Recreational Fluke

Season	Bag Limit	Size
May 22 - September 30	5-fish/angler	16.5"

3. Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod: As effective May 1, 2012, reduce the minimum size for recreationally caught Gulf of Maine cod from 24" to 19" and decrease the bag limit from 10-fish per angler to 9-fish per angler. This rule change will conform regulations in state waters to regulations in federal waters.

Two public hearings have been scheduled:

Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at the Joseph Bourne Public Library, 19 Sandwich Road, Bourne, MA 02532. From 5:30 – 7:30 PM.

Thursday, June 7, 2012 at the *Marine Fisheries* Annisquam River, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930. From 10:00 – 11:00 AM.

Public comments will be accepted until 5PM on Friday June 1, 2012. Please e-mail all public comments to jared.silva@state.ma.us or send to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.

For further information or to obtain a copy of the full regulations please contact Jared Silva by phone (617-626-1534) or through e-mail (jared.silva@state.ma.us), or visit our website (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)