



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
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Reminder: Public Hearing on February 24 on Draft Rules Affecting Commercial and Recreational Fishing

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is hosting an in-person public hearing on proposed changes to commercial and recreational fishing regulations for the 2026 fishing season. The proposed amendments seek to: (1) adjust the commercial fishing limits for summer flounder, black sea bass, and scup and the recreational limits for bluefish; (2) reallocate quota from the horseshoe crab bait fishery to the biomedical fishery; (3) standardize sea scallop maximum dredge width across state and federal jurisdictions; (4) eliminate superfluous regulated fishing permit endorsements; and (5) modify Offshore and Coastal Lobster permit rules. Additional details on these proposals are available on [DMF's proposed regulations website](#).

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, from 6 PM – 9 PM at Admiral's Hall located at 101 Academy Drive in Buzzards Bay, MA on Massachusetts Maritime Academy's campus. A listen-in only option is available via Zoom ([register here](#)). Written public comment will be accepted through 5 PM Friday, February 27, 2026, by email at marine.fish@mass.gov.