

Cape Cod Bay Lobster Closure Task Force

September 23, 2019 5-8 pm

Hanover Public Library at 534 Hanover St.

Meeting Agenda

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Task Force Background
 - a. Appointments to the Task Force
 - b. Tasks:
 - (i) *research the financial impacts on individual fishermen and the fishing industry as a whole of the annual closure of Cape Cod bay to protect the right whale population;*
 - (ii) *investigate additional impacts of emergency closures of Cape Cod bay in instances when the right whale population stays beyond May 1; and*
 - (iii) *research existing programs to assist fishermen who are unable to earn a living based on external factors beyond their control.*
 - c. Timelines
- 3) Closure Background: authorities (state and federal) and regulatory history
 - a. Federal action in 2015 and DMF requested amendments
 - b. Complementary state action
- 4) Data sources available to measure impacts of closure
 - a. Fishermen furnished Trip-level catch reports (SAFIS & VTR's)
 - b. Seafood Dealer furnished Trip level reports
 - c. Confidentiality Restrictions Regarding Data
- 5) Develop Consensus Computational Methods for each Task:
 - a. Impacts on individual fishermen
 - i. Of the 3-month closure
 - ii. Of any contingency-based May extension
 - b. Impacts on the industry as a whole
 - i. Of the 3-month closure
 - ii. Of any contingency-based May extension
- 6) Identify existing programs to assist fishermen affected by the closure