



Maura T. Healey  
*Governor*

Kimberly Driscoll  
*Lt. Governor*

Rebecca L. Tepper  
*Secretary*

Thomas K. O'Shea  
*Commissioner*

Daniel J. McKiernan  
*Director*

---

May 8, 2026  
*Marine Fisheries Advisory*

**DMF Proposes Draft Regulations Affecting  
Commercial Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Dredge Fisheries**

---

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is taking public comment on draft regulations affecting the commercial surf clam and ocean quahog dredge fisheries. This includes modernizing the spatial management program to increase access while enhancing compliance, enforcement, and habitat protections; requiring electronic vessel monitoring among participating vessels; addressing user-group conflicts through seasonal closures; and rescinding the night closure during the wintertime period. Please review the full [public hearing notice](#) and [DMF's proposed regulations webpage](#) for additional details about the proposals.

A virtual public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 via Zoom. To attend this hearing please [register for the Zoom webinar](#). You may also submit written public comment by e-mail to [marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov). All written comment should be written to the attention of Director McKiernan and submitted by 5PM on Friday, June 12, 2026. DMF anticipates submitting a final regulatory recommendation to the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC) at a business meeting later this summer. Please visit the [MFAC's website](#) for more details.

Please visit our website: [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)