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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

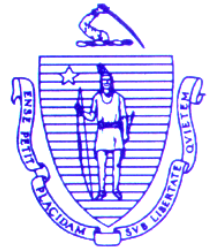
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April 15, 2015

MarineFisheries Advisory

Commercial Tautog Spring Fishery to Open Effective Thursday, April 16, 2015

The Commonwealth's 2015 commercial tautog spring fishery will open effective 0001 hours on Thursday, April 16, 2015. The spring tautog fishery will remain open until the spring sub-quota of 16,890 lbs is projected to be harvested. After adjusting for overages in the 2014 fishery, the 2015 overall commercial quota has been set at 54,984 lbs with 16,890 lbs set for the spring sub-quota and 38,094 lbs set for the fall sub-quota. Commercial fishermen are reminded that the tautog open season daily possession limit is 40 fish and the minimum size 16 inches.

Those fish pot fishermen who have historically been eligible to receive a Letter of Authorization (LOA) to fish with black sea bass pots for tautog, must obtain this LOA prior to fishing for tautog with black sea bass pots in 2015. Any retention of tautog by fish pot without an LOA is unlawful. Contact Jared Silva at jared.silva@state.ma.us or (617) 626-1534 for more information or to request an LOA.

MarineFisheries will also be going to public hearing during the winter of 2015/2016 to discuss changes to the commercial tautog fishery. Potential changes include adopting closed commercial fishing days, adjusting the open commercial tautog fishing seasons, and eliminating the LOA that allows certain fish pot fishermen to take tautog in black sea bass pots.

The complete text of Massachusetts' tautog regulations is found at [322 CMR 6.40](#) and more information regarding the management of tautog in Massachusetts is found on the

MarineFisheries website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries