



## MA Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission

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### July 19, 2018 Meeting Summary

This document serves as a brief summary of the July 19, 2018 Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC) business meeting. Further details will be captured in MFAC business meeting minutes for this date.

#### **Discussion Items**

##### Letter from MFAC to Secretary Beaton

Commission members agreed to send a letter to Secretary Beaton of the Executive Office of Energy and Environment. The letter addresses enhancing the coastal presence of the Massachusetts Environmental Police and advocates for increasing their budget to hire new personnel.

##### Preview of August 2018 ASMFC Meeting

DMF staff provided a preview of the August 2018 ASMFC business meeting. The Eel Board is scheduled to vote on an addendum to the FMP, which addresses elver and yellow eel quotas. The Menhaden Board will consider potential responses to VA potentially failing to enact the Chesapeake Bay Cap required by the FMP. Lastly, the recreational black sea bass working group was continuing its effort to develop a more cohesive and equitable coast-wide management approach that accounts for shifts in the geographic distribution of fish.

##### Draft ASMFC/MAFMC Bluefish Amendment

The ASMFC and MAFMC recently held joint public hearings to begin to scope the development of a draft addendum to the federal and interstate FMP. The purpose of the draft amendment will be to address recreational-commercial allocation splits, state-by-state commercial quota allocations and commercial quota transfers. The MFAC supported drafting of a letter to the MAFMC and ASMFC to advocate that the draft amendment include conservative management options.

##### Update on Recent Adjudicatory Hearings

DMF reviewed the results of several recent adjudicatory hearings. This included the issuance of permit sanctions and the adoption of permit conditions for recreational and commercial fishing violations and permit revocations for contaminated shellfish violations.

#### **Presentation**

DMF provided the MFAC with a presentation on kelp aquaculture development in Massachusetts.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

The next MFAC business meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 13, 2018. It will be held at Division of Marine Fisheries East Field Office in New Bedford, MA. This meeting is scheduled to begin immediately following a public hearing at 9AM.

If you would like to obtain any materials regarding past or upcoming MFAC business meetings, please contact Jared Silva at DMF (617-626-1534 or [jared.silva@state.ma.us](mailto:jared.silva@state.ma.us)).