



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



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Commissioner

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Director

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### DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION: RECISSION OF THE SEASONAL FIXED GEAR CLOSURES

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Pursuant to the requirements set forth at G.L. c.30A, §3 and under the authority of G.L. c.130, §17A and 80, and 322 CMR §§ 12.04(3) and 7.01(7), the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries hereby declares:

- 1. In response aerial surveillance conducted by the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies documenting the absence of North Atlantic right whales in the waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth, the Division of Marine Fisheries is rescind the seasonal fixed gear closures at 322 CMR 12.04.**
- 2. Effective May 8, 2023 fixed gear fishermen may set gear in those waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth north and east of Cape Cod previously subject to the seasonal fixed gear closures to protect right whales at 322 CMR 12.04.**

Dated: May 7, 2023

By: \_\_\_\_\_