



David E. Pierce
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

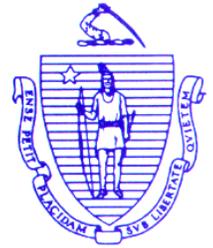
Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, Massachusetts 02114

(617) 626-1520

fax (617) 626-1509



Charles D. Baker
Governor

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September 18, 2015

Marine Fisheries Advisory

NEW LEADERSHIP AT MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is pleased to announce the appointment of **David E. Pierce**, PhD, as its next Director. Dr. Pierce brings 43 years of marine fisheries research and management experience to the position. As Director, he is responsible for the administrative supervision of the Division.

Dr. Pierce has been a Deputy Director with DMF since 2000, with his major responsibility being inter-jurisdictional fisheries policy and management as well as fisheries research in support of fisheries management and habitat protection. In this role, he has represented the Commonwealth's interests on both the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, numerous management boards of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. Dr. Pierce began his career with DMF as an assistant biologist in 1972, earning advanced degrees in marine biology and environmental science as he ascended the ranks. Throughout his tenure, he has developed a strong track record of working collaboratively with public and private sector stakeholders to address challenges faced in the evaluation and management of the Commonwealth's marine resources.

Soon after becoming DMF's Director, David emphasized, "I've long recognized the excellent work of all sorts—scientific and otherwise—performed by DMF's accomplished and talented staff who have been responsible for the agency's excellent reputation. From our field stations to the Boston Office, our staff has created fisheries science and management partnerships we now must preserve and strengthen, such as DMF's relationship with the University of Massachusetts through our Marine Fisheries Institute. Partnerships also include those with recreational and commercial fishermen helping us make more informed fisheries management decisions and improve the science on which we depend."

The Director's position is appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) with the approval of the Commonwealth's nine-member citizen advisory board, the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission. On September 10, the Advisory Commission unanimously supported DFG Commissioner George Peterson's recommendation of Dr. Pierce to head the agency. The Division's former Director, Paul J. Diodati, retired from state service this past April. Dr. Pierce has served the Division since then in the role of Acting Director.

The Division of Marine Fisheries is responsible for the development and promulgation of the Commonwealth's regulations governing fishing activity conducted in the marine environment. The Division promotes and develops commercial and recreational fisheries through research, technical assistance, and the collection of statistics. For more information, visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.