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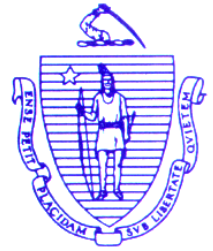
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Marine Fisheries Advisory

Now Available: DMF NEWS for Quarters 1 & 2 of 2017

The most recent edition of our newsletter, DMF NEWS, is now available for download. This edition covers events and issues of the first half of 2017, including:

- Tautog Management Changes Coming for 2018
- A New Way to Age Tautog
- Record Numbers of Right Whales Seen in Cape Cod Bay
- Seafood Marketing Program Update
- *Marine Fisheries* Youth Fishing Clinics
- Eelgrass Restoration in Salem Sound
- Unprecedented Challenges in Lobster Management
- Former MFAC Commissioner Bill Adler Receives Belding Award
- Rules Update for January 1 – June 30, 2017
- And MORE!

Download the e-version [here](#).

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DMF News

Managing the Commonwealth's living marine resources.

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Tautog Management Changes Coming for 2018
MA & RI to develop consistent management strategy to maintain the localized stock

New management strategies for tautog, a popular recreational fish abundant off our south coast, are in the works for 2018. It's been over two decades since the interstate management plan first was adopted and now the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has drafted its first plan amendment. This species is one of the most localized of all popular recreational and commercial species, and the proposed changes to the plan will create four regions—each with its own conservation goals and regulations.

The creation of region-specific management is a departure from the previous plan. After twenty years of management, the Commission has concluded there are stark differences

Did You Know?

Although capable of reaching large sizes, tautog are very slow growing. The largest tautog caught in MA weighed 22 lbs 9 oz. Males grow faster and live longer than females with a max age of 35 years. Fish at the 16" minimum size are about 8 years of age. Both sexes mature at 3 or 4 years of age at about 12", so the minimum size provides multiple years of spawning before harvest.