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Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

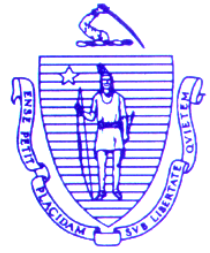
Division of Marine Fisheries

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October 4, 2011

Marine Fisheries Advisory

REMINDER OF SEA SCALLOP SCOPING MEETINGS

OCTOBER 4th and 5th, 2011

SPECIAL FISHERY PERMIT FOR 2012:

STATE WATERS SEA SCALLOP DREDGE ENDORSEMENT AND PERMIT CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO SCALLOP DREDGE GEAR AND SEA SCALLOP TRIP LIMITS

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 130 § 17A and 80 and 322 CMR 7.01(4), for the 2012 fishing year, the Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) is considering implementing a regulated fishery special permit endorsement authorizing Coastal Access Permit (CAP) holders to take sea scallops by dredge in state waters; this permit endorsement will be known as the State Waters Sea Scallop Endorsement (SE). The SE will only be made available to CAP holders who do not also hold a federal sea scallop permit. This will not prevent federal scallop permit holders from fishing in state waters.

Marine Fisheries is also recommending the following conditions to the SE:

- 1) all permitted vessels are authorized to retain and land no more than 200 lbs of sea scallop meats or 2,000 lbs of in-shell sea scallops per trip or 24 hour period, whichever is longer;
- 2) all permitted vessels must use at minimum a 10" twine top net mesh; and
- 3) all permitted vessels must use at minimum a 4" dredge ring.

Two public scoping meetings have been scheduled to take comment on the proposed permit and permit conditions:

Tuesday, October 4, 2011 – 6:00 to 9:00 PM – Falmouth Public High School, 874 Gifford Street Ext, Falmouth, MA 02540.

Wednesday, October 5, 2011 – 6:00 to 9:00 PM – Annisquam River Station, 30 Emerson Ave, Gloucester, MA 01930.

Marine Fisheries is accepting written comments through 5:00 PM on Friday, October 7, 2011. Interested parties may submit comments to *Marine Fisheries* via e-mail (marine.fish@state.ma.us or jared.silva@state.ma.us), fax (617-626-1509) or mail (Jared Silva, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114).

For additional information regarding the meetings or proposal please contact Jared Silva by phone (617-626-1534) or e-mail (jared.silva@state.ma.us).