



David E. Pierce, Ph. D.
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

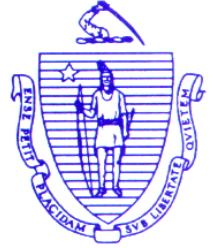
Division of Marine Fisheries

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August 16, 2016

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE:

**Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Special Permit for Experimental Kelp Longline Culture
in Coastal Waters off Manchester, MA
Thursday September 8th at 6 pm at
DMF's Annisquam River Facility 30 Emerson Ave. Gloucester, MA**

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has scheduled a public hearing and comment period to accept comments on a special permit application to experimentally culture three endemic species of marine kelp in Cape Ann. The proposed project consists of two temporary 150 ft. horizontal longlines along the 38-foot contour line West of Graves Island, East of Little Salt Rock and South of Eagle Head in Manchester, MA, approximately ¼ mile (1,300 feet) from shore. Submerged horizontal lines would be deployed approximately 7 feet below the surface with intermittent buoys for line suspension and navigational aids to mark the project boundaries. The proponents are requesting a 1-acre restriction on fixed and mobile fishing gear around the site intended to minimize the risk of gear conflict. Restrictions on small vessel traffic and other commercial and recreational fishing gear types are not proposed.

DMF will review comments to evaluate stakeholder concerns about the proposed experimental project and to determine if modifications to location, gear marking, and gear design, or other features of the project, may be warranted. Written public comments will be accepted until 5:00 PM on Wednesday, September 9, 2016 and a public hearing will be held on September 8th at 6 pm at DMF's Annisquam River facility (30 Emerson Ave. Gloucester, MA 01930). Please address all comments to Director David Pierce. Comments can be sent by e-mail to marine.fish@state.ma.us or by mail to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.

A full copy of the permit application can be found [here](#) on DMF's website or can be obtained by contacting Jared Silva by phone (617-626-1534) or through e-mail (jared.silva@state.ma.us).

Project Boundaries:

NW: 42°34'7.00"N
70°45'5.85"W

NE: 42°34'8.76"N
70°45'2.61"W

SW: 42°34'6.00"N
70°45'4.64"W

SE: 42°34'7.66"N
70°45'1.40"W

