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August 27, 2015

Marine Fisheries Advisory

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON SPECIFICATIONS TO: ELIMINATE CLOSED FISHING DAYS IN THE COMMERCIAL SCUP FISHERY

Under the notice and public comment provisions of M.G.L. Ch 30A and pursuant to the authority found in M.G.L. Ch. 130 §§ 17A & 80 and 322 CMR §§ 6.28(9)(d) & 7.01(7), the Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) is accepting comment on a proposal to eliminate closed fishing days in the commercial scup fishery effective September 11, 2015 through October 31, 2015. This will provide commercial fishermen additional opportunity to harvest the under-utilized scup quota and mitigate commercial fishing days lost due to weather during the fall period.

Public comments will be received until 5PM on Wednesday, September 9, 2015. Written comment may be submitted to Acting Director David Pierce by e-mail to marine.fish@state.ma.us or by post sent to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission will review all comment and vote on this proposed specification at their September 10, 2015 business meeting. If approved, this proposal will be effective on September 11, 2015 through a Declaration by the Director. The Declaration will be published in a local newspaper, the Massachusetts Register, distributed via the *Marine Fisheries* Listserve and posted on the *Marine Fisheries* website.

For more information regarding the management of scup in Massachusetts, please visit our website (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries) or call the Division of Marine Fisheries at 617-626-1520.