

- (4) Non-commercial Lobster Daily Possession and Landing Limit. It shall be unlawful for any person to harvest more than 15 lobsters per calendar day for personal use, or possess more than 15 lobsters while lobster fishing in waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth.

### 6.03 Cod, Haddock, Pollock, Yellowtail Flounder, and Halibut

- (1) Definitions. For the purpose of 322 CMR 6.00 only, the following words shall have the following meanings:

Cod means that species of fish known as *Gadus morhua*.

Fish for means to harvest, catch, take, have on board, possess or land or attempt to harvest, catch, take, have on board, possess or land any cod, haddock, pollock or yellowtail flounder.

Gonads means sex glands commonly known as ovaries or testes or any portions thereof removed from fish and retained for purposes of sale.

Haddock means that species of fish known as *Melanogrammus aeglefinus*.

Halibut means that species of fish known as *Hippoglossus hippoglossus*.

Land means to transfer or offload any cod, haddock, pollock or yellowtail flounder onto any vessel, boat, watercraft, land, dock, pier, wharf or other artificial structure used for the purpose of receiving fish.

Recreational fishing means fishing for cod, haddock, pollock or yellowtail flounder with hand-held gear other than nets for a purpose or use other than sale, exchange or barter.

Pollock means that species of fish known as *Pollachius virens*.

Yellowtail flounder means that species of fish known as *Limanda ferruginea*.

Total length means the greatest straight line length in inches as measured on a fish with its mouth closed from the anterior most tip of the jaw or snout to the farthest extremity of the tail. For fish with forked tails, the upper and lower fork may be squeezed together to measure the tail extremity.

- (2) Minimum Size. It is unlawful to fish for cod, haddock, pollock or yellowtail flounder of a size less than the following:

(a) Commercial Fishing.

1. Cod: 22 inches
2. Haddock and Pollock: 19 inches.
3. Yellowtail flounder: 13 inches.
4. Halibut: 36 inches.

(b) Recreational Fishing.

1. Cod: 22 inches.
2. Haddock: 19 inches.
3. Yellowtail flounder: 13 inches.
4. Halibut: 36 inches.

- (3) Method of Measurement.

(a) Minimum Size. The minimum sizes established in 322 CMR 6.03(2) shall be determined by the greatest straight line length in inches as measured on a fish with its mouth closed from the anterior most tip of the jaw or snout to the farthest extremity of the tail. For fish with forked tails, the upper and lower fork may be squeezed together to measure the tail extremity.

(b) Exceptions for Possession of Cod Parts. For purposes of determining weights for trip limits as established by 322 CMR 6.03(b), the weight of fillets will be multiplied by 3, and the weight of headless whole-gutted cod will be multiplied by 1.25. The weights of cheeks removed from cod heads and cod gonads consistent with 322 CMR 6.03(b) shall be exempt from the possession limits.

(c) Prohibition. It shall be unlawful for a commercial fisherman to mutilate any cod in such a way as to interfere with or affect a proper or adequate measurement of the fish.



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(c) An adjustment has been filed with the Massachusetts Register and has been made available to all commercial scup or black sea bass permit holders and dealers authorized to purchase scup or black sea bass.

(d) The director shall consider any written comments submitted by the public or a state or federal agency, and based on these comments, the Director may alter, amend, or rescind the adjustments pursuant to the procedural requirements of 322 CMR 6.28(5)(b).

(6) Black Sea Bass Recreational Fishery Seasons. It is unlawful for recreational fishermen to possess black sea bass during the period December 1 through May 9 and September 8 through September 21.

6.29. Acushnet River Estuary Fisheries Closures

(1) Definitions. For purposes of 322 CMR 6.30 the following words shall have the following meanings:

Area 1 means all waters north of the Hurricane Dike in New Bedford including all of New Bedford Harbor and the Acushnet River. This area corresponds to Area I described in 105 CMR 260.000.

Area 2 means all waters encompassed by an imaginary straight line beginning at the southernmost part of Ricketers Point in Dartmouth; thence in an easterly direction to the southernmost part of Wilbur Point in Sconticut Neck, Fairhaven; thence along the western shoreline of Sconticut Neck in a northerly direction along the Fairhaven shoreline; thence along the Hurricane Dike to the New Bedford shoreline; thence in a southerly direction to Clarks Point and along the shoreline of Clarks Cove to the starting point. This area corresponds to Area II described in 105 CMR 260.000.

(2) Area 1 and 2 Prohibitions. It is unlawful to harvest, catch, or take lobster from Areas 1 and 2.

6.30. American Eels

(1) Permit. It shall be unlawful for any person to take or land American eels (*Anguilla rostrata*) for commercial purposes without a regulated fishery permit issued by the Director.

(2) Reporting. Each holder of a regulated fishery permit for American eels shall file a monthly catch report on forms supplied by the Division. Failure to report shall be grounds for suspension and non-renewal of the permit.

(3) Dealers. Wholesale Dealers who purchase American eels from licensed fishermen shall register with the Division and keep records of purchases on forms supplied by the Division.

(4) Minimum Size. It is unlawful for any person to fish for, take, or have in possession American eels measuring less than six inches in total length unless authorized by a special permit issued by the Director.

(5) Non-Commercial Harvest Limit. It shall be unlawful for any person to harvest more than 50 eels per calendar day for personal use, or possess more than 50 eels while eel fishing, unless said person holds a regulated fishery permit for American eel.

(6) Prohibited Fishing Gear. During the period February 15 through June 15, it shall be unlawful for any person, while in or on the waters of or upon the banks of streams or rivers within the coastal waters, to possess or have under his/her control any device with mesh or openings measuring less than 1/2 inch, including, but not limited to, gill nets, otter nets, and traps adapted for the taking of eels, or to have any such gear in said areas during the closed season.