General Information

The Division of Marine Fisheries is responsible for the management of the Commonwealth's living marine resources. The Division promotes and develops commercial and recreational fisheries through research, technical assistance, and the collection of statistics. Sport Fish Biologists are assigned to regions of the state and interact with many federal, interstate, state, and local management agencies as well as private fisheries organizations. For further information contact the local Recreational Fisheries Biologists.

Recreational Fisheries Program Biologists

Boston Office
251 Causeway St., Suite 400
Boston. MA 02114
(617) 626-1520
FAX: (617) 626-1509

South Shore Office
Quest Center, 1213 Purchase St.
New Bedford, MA 02740
(508) 990-2860
FAX: (508) 990-0449
Paul Caruso - Cape & Islands
John Boardman - S.Shore/S.Coast

Annisquam R. Marine Fish. Station
30 Emerson Avenue
Gloucester, MA 01930
(978) 282-0308
FAX: (617) 727-3337
Matt Ayer - North Shore

Martha's Vineyard Office
Marine Fisheries Station
P. O. Box 68
Vineyard Haven,MA 02568
(508) 693-4372
FAX: (508) 693-4157

Office of Law Enforcement

Environmental Police Officers are responsible for enforcing Massachusetts fish and game laws including the commercial and recreational harvest of living marine resources. In addition they also enforce the Commonwealth's boating and recreational vehicle laws and regulations. Fishing violations can be reported to one of the following numbers:

Toll free Number.....1-800-632-8075

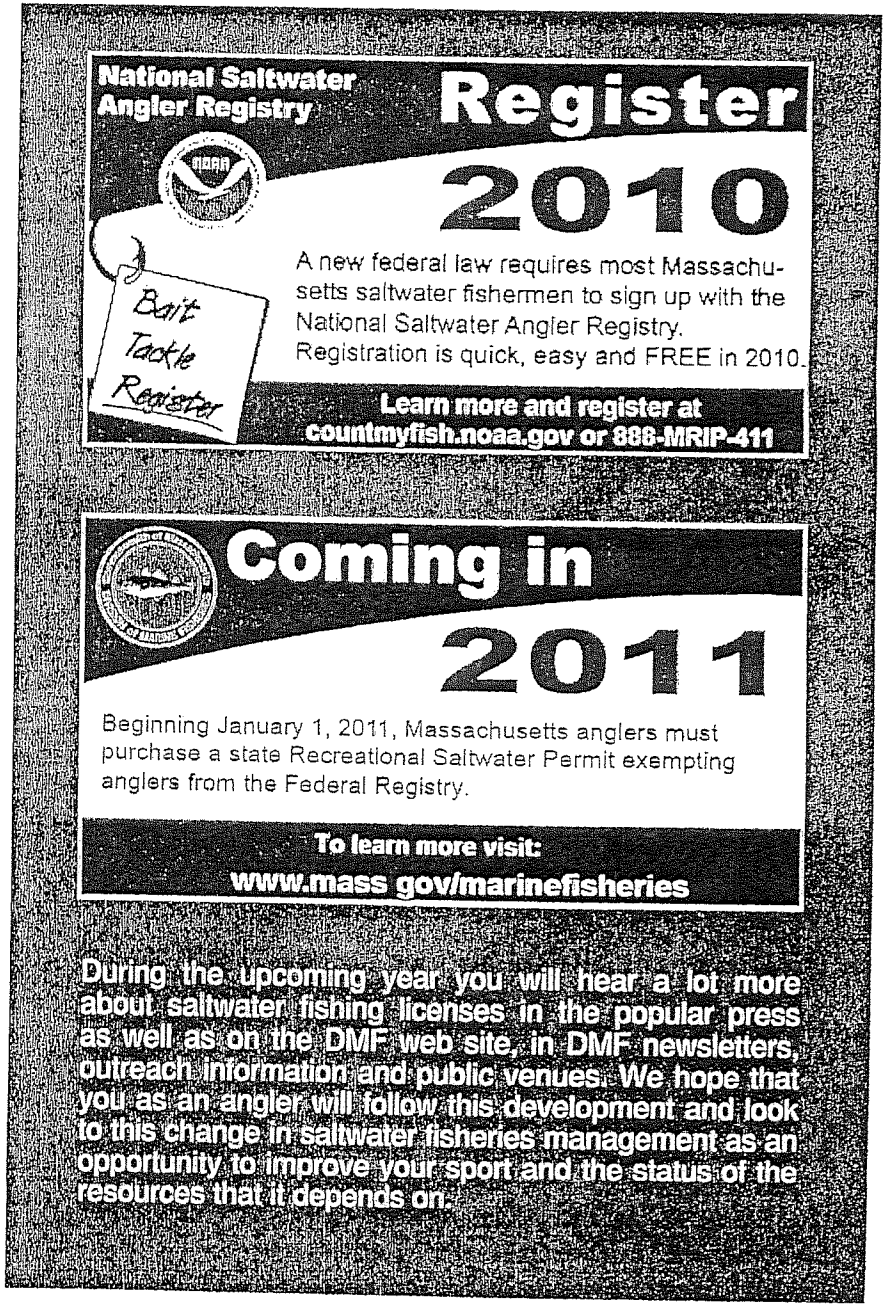
Recreational Fishing Information

Recreational saltwater fishing regulations are not contained in this publication. Important harvest information for the past year is not available until early in the subsequent year and the management process takes several months, so regulatory changes are not final until mid-April of each year, while this publication goes to press about February 1. Accordingly, on or about May 1 of each year the Division publishes a stand alone brochure titled the Massachusetts Saltwater Recreational Fishing Regulatory Abstracts containing the current year's regulations. These are widely distributed to bait and tackle stores along the coast. In addition, our web site regulation section is updated on a real time basis as regulations change. We urge all anglers to pick up the most current edition of the abstracts or go to http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf/recreationalfishing/rec_index.htm to print out a copy.

Tuna: Atlantic Tuna are regulated by the federal government. Tuna management is based at: National Marine Fisheries Service Atlantic Tunas Program, Northeast Regional Office, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298. Tel #:(978) 281-9260. Call or write for further information.

Tagging - Periodically the Division conducts tagging studies of a particular finfish species to develop a better understanding of local movements, habitat preference, migration, growth, and general abundance. The angler plays a significant role in retrieving valuable data. Carefully examine your catch for tags. If found, record the tag number if returning fish to water, or snip off the tag if keeping fish. Contact the address printed on the tag and you will be briefed on the tagging study and may even receive a reward. Note: Recently, fluke and striped bass have been tagged in our waters.

Massachusetts Recreational Saltwater Fishing Requirement



During the upcoming year you will hear a lot more about saltwater fishing licenses in the popular press as well as on the DMF web site, in DMF newsletters, outreach information and public venues. We hope that you as an angler will follow this development and look to this change in saltwater fisheries management as an opportunity to improve your sport and the status of the resources that it depends on.