

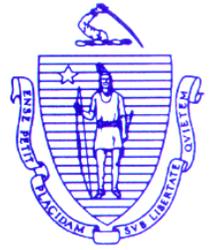


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May 15, 2015

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Right Whale Advisory Lifted in Cape Cod Bay

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries is lifting the advisory issued last month about the presence of aggregations of right whales in Cape Cod Bay. DMF had urged boaters and fishermen to avoid right whales and use slow speeds when operating in the bay to prevent vessel collision and entanglements.

An aerial survey of Cape Cod Bay on May 15, 2015 by the Center for Coastal Studies and the Division of Marine Fisheries found no right whales. The zooplankton resource also has diminished and with the lack of right whale sightings, it appears likely that the right whales have moved on to other habitats.

Though no whales were sighted in the bay, boaters should remain vigilant and on the lookout for right whales as they may still be present in small numbers.

On April 29, DMF issued an advisory to mariners about a High Risk Area in western Cape Cod Bay after documenting 82 right whales surface and subsurface feeding in the area. Feeding right whales are often very difficult to see and at risk for vessel collision. Approximately 50% of the known right whale population visits Massachusetts waters each winter and spring.

Management of right whales in Massachusetts waters is a cooperative effort between the Division of Marine Fisheries, the Center for Coastal Studies and the National Marine Fisheries Service.