



MASSWILDLIFE

**DIVISION OF
FISHERIES & WILDLIFE**

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

p: (508) 389-6300 | f: (508) 389-7890

MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
321 CMR 4.01

In accordance with M.G.L., Ch. 131, Sec. 5 and Ch. 30A, Sec. 2, NOTICE is hereby given that the Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife will hold a public hearing on proposed regulatory amendments to 321 CMR 4.01 Taking of Certain Fish in Massachusetts, on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., via a Zoom video webinar with the Hearing Officer and MassWildlife staff, with the public joining via computer or phone line. The proposed amendments will simplify trout fishing regulations, revise American Eel regulations, and refine the definition of possession.

The proposed regulatory amendments relative to 321 CMR 4.01 and the link to register in advance to join the Zoom webinar are posted at Mass.gov/MassWildlife/Hearings, so that interested persons can review the proposed regulations and provide written comments prior to the hearing or oral comments during the virtual hearing.

Written public comments will be accepted until Monday, June 1, 2026, 5:00 p.m., via an online comment form; a link to the form can be found in the notice on the public hearings page given above.

Please see Mass.gov/MassWildlife/Hearings to find the address to submit comments by mail, to request reasonable accommodations for a disability, or to find information on real-time language interpretation offered at this hearing.

Everose Schlüter, Ph.D.
Director

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Small Business Impact Statement

CMR No:
321 CMR 4.0: Fishing

Estimate of the Number of Small Businesses Impacted by the Regulation: 0

- **Will small businesses have to create, file, or issue additional reports?**
No.
- **Will small businesses have to implement additional recordkeeping procedures?**
No.
- **Will small businesses have to provide additional administrative oversight?**
No.
- **Will small businesses have to hire additional employees in order to comply with the proposed regulation?**
No.
- **Does compliance with the regulation require small businesses to hire other professionals (e.g. a lawyer, accountant, engineer, etc.)?**
No.
- **Does the regulation require small businesses to purchase a product or make any other capital investments in order to comply with the regulation?**
No.
- **Are performance standards more appropriate than design/operational standards to accomplish the regulatory objective?**
(Performance standards express requirements in terms of outcomes, giving the regulated party flexibility to achieve regulatory objectives and design/operational standards specify exactly what actions regulated parties must take.)
No.
- **Do any other regulations duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation?**
No.
- **Does the regulation require small businesses to cooperate with audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement activities?**
No.
- **Does the regulation require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements?**
No.
- **Is the regulation likely to deter the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts?**
No.
- **Is the regulation likely to encourage the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts?**
No.

- **Does the regulation provide for less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?**
No.
- **Does the regulation establish less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?**
No.
- **Did the agency consolidate or simplify compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?**
No.
- **Can performance standards for small businesses replace design or operational standards without hindering delivery of the regulatory objective?**
No.
- **Are there alternative regulatory methods that would minimize the adverse impact on small businesses?**
No.