



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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*Joseph Cimino (NJ), Chair*

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*Robert E. Beal, Executive Director*

*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

April 4, 2024

Mr. Mike Pentony  
Regional Administrator  
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
NOAA Fisheries  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930-2276

Dear Mr. Pentony,

Under Addendum XXXII and Framework Adjustments 2 and 14 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has the responsibility to notify NOAA Fisheries of the states' black sea bass and summer flounder recreational measures. The enclosed tables detail the 2024 and 2025 summer flounder and 2024 black sea bass recreational measures states have implemented or are in the process of implementing. Recreational measures for scup have been included in the tables below as a courtesy.

For black sea bass and summer flounder, the recreational measures are implemented under the conservation equivalency program established by the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board (Board). The Recreation Demand Model (RDM) estimates the Board-approved measures in Table 1 for summer flounder and Table 3 for scup will achieve a coastwide reduction in harvest of 28% and 10%, respectively. These reductions were determined following the Percent Change Approach guidelines in Addendum XXXIV. Black sea bass measures will remain status quo from 2023 for all states in 2024, treating 2024 as the second year within a two-year cycle, with the exception of Massachusetts and Connecticut. These states made minor adjustments to their 2024 seasons to maintain a Saturday opening. To account for additional harvest due to the start date change, both states have shortened their respective seasons by three days for harvest levels to remain status quo, as determined by the RDM.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please call me or Toni Kerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Beal", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert E. Beal

Enclosure: 2023 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass recreational measures  
cc: Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board

**Table 1. 2024 and 2025 State/Regional Summer Flounder Management Measures**

STATE	Mode	Size Limit	Possession Limit	Open Season
MASSACHUSETTS	Private & For-Hire	17.5"	5 fish	May 24 – September 23
	Shore	16.5"		
RHODE ISLAND	All	19"	6 fish	April 1 – December 31
Rhode Island Shore Program (7 designated shore sites)	Shore	19"	4 fish <sup>1</sup>	
		17"	2 fish <sup>1</sup>	
CONNECTICUT	All	19"	3 fish	May 4 – August 1
		19.5"		August 2 – October 15
Connecticut Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing Sites (45 designated shore sites)	Shore	17"	3 fish	May 4 – October 15
NEW YORK	All	19"	3 fish	May 4 – August 1
		19.5"		August 2 – October 15
NEW JERSEY	All	18"	3 fish	May 4 – September 25
New Jersey Shore Program Site (IBSP)	Shore	16"	2 fish	
New Jersey Delaware Bay and Tributaries	All	17"	3 fish	
DELAWARE, MARYLAND, & VIRGINIA	All	16"	4 fish	January 1 – May 31
		17.5"		June 1 – December 31
NORTH CAROLINA	All	15"	1 fish	August 16 – September 30 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Combined possession limit of 6 fish; no more than 2 fish at 17-inch minimum size limit.

<sup>2</sup> Season subject to become more restrictive pending southern flounder management needs.

**Table 2. 2024 State/Regional Black Sea Bass Management Measures**

STATE	Size Limit	Possession Limit	Open Season
MAINE	13"	10 fish	May 19-September 21; October 18-December 31
NEW HAMPSHIRE	16.5"	4 fish	January 1-December 31
MASSACHUSETTS	16.5"	4 fish	May 18-September 3
RHODE ISLAND Private & Shore	16.5"	2 fish	May 22-August 26
		3 fish	August 27-December 31
RI For-Hire	16"	2 fish	June 18-August 31
		6 fish	September 1-December 31
CONNECTICUT Private & Shore	16"	5 fish	May 18-June 23; July 8-November 28
CT (Authorized For-Hire Monitoring Program vessels)		5 fish	May 18-August 31
		7 fish	September 1-December 31
NEW YORK	16.5"	3 fish	June 23-August 31
		6 fish	September 1-December 31
NEW JERSEY	12.5"	10 fish	May 17-June 19
		1 fish	July 1-August 31
		10 fish	October 1-October 31
		15 fish	November 1-December 31
DELAWARE	13"	15 fish	May 15-September 30; October 10-December 31
MARYLAND			
VIRGINIA <sup>1</sup>			May 15-July 15; July 27-December 31
NORTH CAROLINA North of Cape Hatteras (N of 35° 15'N)			May 15-September 30; October 10-December 31

<sup>1</sup> Virginia will be reducing their season to account for catch during their Wave 1 February recreational fishery. However, the exact new season will not be finalized until the end of April 2024.

**Table 3. 2024 and 2025 State/Regional Scup Management Measures**

STATE	Mode	Size Limit	Possession Limit	Open Season
MASSACHUSETTS	Shore	9.5"	30 fish	May 1 – December 31
	Private	11"		
	For-Hire	11"	40 fish	May 1 – June 30
			30 fish	July 1 – December 31
RHODE ISLAND	Shore	9.5"	30 fish	May 1 – December 31
	Private	11"		
	For-Hire	11"	30 fish	May 1 – August 31
			40 fish	September 1 – October 31
			30 fish	November 1 – October 31
CONNECTICUT	Shore	9.5"	30 fish	May 1 – December 31
	Private	11"		
	For-Hire	11"	30 fish	May 1 – August 31
			40 fish	September 1 – October 31
			30 fish	November 1 – December 31
NEW YORK	Shore	9.5"	30 fish	May 1 – December 31
	Private	11"		
	For-Hire	11"	30 fish	May 1 – August 31
			40 fish	September 1 – October 31
			30 fish	November 1 – December 31
NEW JERSEY	All	10"	30 fish	January 1 – June 30
				September 1 – December 31
DELAWARE	All	9"	30 fish	January 1 – December 31
MARYLAND				
VIRGINIA				
NORTH CAROLINA North of Cape Hatteras (N of 35° 15'N)				