



States Implement Recreational Measures for 2001 Summer Flounder Fishery

Throughout May, states from Massachusetts through North Carolina finalized and began implementing their recreational management measures for the 2001 summer flounder fishery (see table below). Collectively, the states are working to reduce recreational landings by 41% from 1999/2000 landings. Individually, states have implemented state-specific measures to meet their required reductions.

“Now, more than ever the states are committed to ensuring the proper conservation and management of summer flounder resource. That includes not only ensuring that commercial harvests meet the management targets, but that recreational fishery also stay within the limits set for that fishery, stated John H. Dunnigan.

In early April 2001, the states agreed to implement a 17.91 million pound total allowable landings (TAL) limit for 2001 summer flounder commercial and recreational fisheries combined. As defined in the fishery management plan, 40 per-

cent of the TAL is allocated to recreational fisheries, with the remaining 60 percent being allocated to commercial fisheries. Based on the 2001 TAL, the commercial and recreational harvests are set at 10.75 million pounds and 7.16 million pounds, respectively.

These reductions were necessary because the estimated 2000 recreational landings far exceeded the recreational harvest limit. This year, states have used a combination of increased minimum size limits, decreased possession limits and shortened seasons to ensure the 2001 recreational harvest limit is not exceeded.

Summer flounder is jointly managed by the Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council through the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP). For more information, please contact Michael Lewis, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400.

2001 Recreational Management Measures for Summer Flounder by State

<u>STATE</u>	<u>MINIMUM SIZE (inches)</u>	<u>POSSESSION LIMIT</u>	<u>OPEN SEASON</u>
Massachusetts	16.5	7 fish	May 26 – September 5
Rhode Island	17.5	6 fish	May 26 – September 2
Connecticut	17.5	6 fish	Open all year
New York	17	7 fish	May 2 – October 31
New Jersey	16	8 fish	May 12 – September 11
Delaware	17.5	4 fish	Open all year
Maryland	17	8 fish	April 25 – July 24; August 7 – December 31
PRFC*	TBD	TBD	TBD
Virginia	15.5	8 fish	March 29 – July 24; August 8 – December 31
North Carolina	15.5	8 fish	Open all year with the exception of May 1 – May 14

* The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) will be meeting on June 15 to finalize its recreational summer flounder regulations. It is looking at two potential options: (1) implement the same regulations as the State of Maryland or (2) establish a 16" minimum size limit and an 8 fish possession limit to be prosecuted July 13 - December 31.