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Marine Fisheries Advisory

COMMERCIAL SCUP LIMITS FOR 2020 WINTER I PERIOD

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), with approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, has established Massachusetts' 2020 Winter I (January 1–April 30) scup commercial possession and landing limit ([Declaration Notice](#)). During this period, commercial fishermen may possess and land up to 50,000 pounds of scup in Massachusetts. If 80% of the coastwide Winter I quota allocation is taken, the possession limit will be reduced to 1,000 pounds. The 2020 Winter I scup possession and landing limit is enforceable by regulation and permit condition ([Statement of Conditions](#)). This action does not exempt the permit holder from any superseding state or federal regulations governing scup possession limits during the Winter I period for vessels fishing with nets that have less than 5-inches mesh applied throughout the codend of the net.

The initial 2020 coastwide quota is 23.98 million pounds (mlb). This quota is then allocated into three periods: Winter I (45.11%); Summer (38.95%); and Winter II (15.94%). As a result, the quota allocation for the Winter I fishery is 10.82 mlb. Based on this quota level, the federal Winter I commercial trip limit has been set at 50,000 pounds; it has been set at this level since 2012. If 80% of the Winter I quota allocation is landed, the federal trip limit will be reduced to 1,000 pounds.

DMF historically has set state possession and landing limits that are consistent with the federal possession limits. While scup are not typically available in these quantities in our state waters during the winter, this allows offshore vessels catching scup to lawfully transit our waters and land their harvest in Massachusetts.

For more information regarding the management of scup in Massachusetts, please visit our website (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries) or call DMF at 617-626-1520.