

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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2020 Recreational Fishing Limits Set for Fluke, Scup, and Black Sea Bass; Bluefish Rules Pending

The 2020 fishing limits for the recreational harvest of summer flounder (fluke), scup, and black sea bass in Massachusetts are listed below. These status quo regulations result from recent decisions made by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (see the ASMFC meeting summary for more details).

Fishery	Open Season	Possession Limit*	Minimum Size
Summer Flounder	May 23–October 9	5 fish	17"
Scup, Private Vessels & Shore	January 1–December 31	30 fish (150 fish/vessel maximum)	9"
Scup, For-Hire Vessels	January 1–April 30	30 fish	9"
	May 1–June 30	50 fish	
	July 1–December 31	30 fish	
Black Sea Bass	May 18–September 8	5 fish	15"

^{*} Possession limits are per person per day unless otherwise noted.

While the Commission and Council also selected new recreational possession limits for bluefish (including a 3-fish limit for anglers fishing from shore or aboard private vessels and a 5-fish limit for anglers fishing aboard for-hire vessels), states have the ability to request alternative rules that have the same conservational value. The Division of Marine Fisheries is evaluating possible options for Massachusetts anglers; final bluefish rules will be announced by this spring.

For more information, please contact the Division of Marine Fisheries at 617-626-1520 or visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.