



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



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Governor

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Director

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

2024 PERIOD I SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY TO REACH QUOTA ALLOCATION TRIP LIMIT TO BE REDUCED TO 100 POUNDS EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 6, 2024

DMF is projecting that 30% of Massachusetts' 2024 commercial summer flounder quota will be taken as of Monday, February 5, 2024. Accordingly, effective Tuesday, February 6, the trip limit will be reduced to 100 pounds through Monday, April 22. Vessels permitted to land summer flounder in other states will still be authorized to possess non-conforming quantities of summer flounder when transiting through or offloading in Massachusetts; however, all non-conforming fish must be segregated from fish to be offloaded in Massachusetts, clearly labeled with the intended state of landing, and remain on the vessel during any offloading.

The Period I fishery (January 1–April 22) is allocated 30% of the state's annual quota. This year's fishery opened with a 5,000-pound trip limit. Once DMF projects the 30% quota allocation is taken, the trip limit is automatically reduced to 100 pounds for the remainder of the period. This is done to continue to allow a nominal allowance of bycatch to be landed and prevent regulatory discarding, while working to ensure the Period I fishery—which occurs predominately offshore in federal waters—does not exceed its quota allocation thereby reducing the quota available to the Period II fishery (April 23 – December 31), which occurs predominantly inshore and during the summer months.

For more information about the management of marine fisheries in Massachusetts, visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.