



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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



MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
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Secretary

THOMAS K. O'SHEA
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DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

April 26, 2024

Marine Fisheries Advisory

UPDATE ON RECREATIONAL FISHING RULES FOR 2024 AND UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass

DMF has adopted a series of emergency regulations that establish the recreational fishing limits for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. These limits are described in the table below and are consistent with the information provided in our [March 26, 2024 Advisory](#).

Species	Fishing Mode	Open Season	Possession Limit	Minimum Size
Summer Flounder	Shore	May 24–September 23	5 fish	16.5"
	Private Vessel & For-hire Vessel	May 24–September 23	5 fish	17.5"
Scup	Shore	May 1–December 31	30 fish	9.5"
	Private Vessel	May 1–December 31	30 fish (150 fish/vessel maximum)	11"
	For-hire Vessel	May 1–June 30	40 fish	11"
July 1–December 31		30 fish		
Black Sea Bass	Shore, Private Vessel & For-hire Vessel	May 18–September 3	4 fish	16.5"

Filleting Striped Bass

As described in our [April 23, 2024 Advisory](#), DMF has adopted emergency regulations to update state rules concerning the at-sea and shore-side filleting of recreationally caught striped bass to clarify existing rules and comply with new interstate requirements.

Gulf of Maine Cod and Haddock

DMF is also proposing a series of draft regulations to mirror expected federal recreational fishing limits for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and haddock. The rules proposed, and described in the table below, match that which was recommended by the New England Fishery Management Council to NOAA Fisheries.

(continued on next page)

Species	Fishing Mode	Open Season	Possession Limit	Minimum Size
GOM Cod	All	September 1–October 31	1 fish	23”
GOM Haddock	All	May 1–February 28 April 1–April 30	15 fish	18”

Public Hearing and Comment Period

DMF will host a public hearing and accept written public comment on these recently enacted emergency and proposed draft regulations. The public hearing has been scheduled for Monday, May 20, 2024 at 6PM via Zoom. Please register [here](#). Written public comment will also be accepted through 8PM on Monday, May 20, 2024. Please submit written comments to Director Daniel McKiernan by e-mail (marine.fish@mass.gov). For more information, please view the full [public hearing notice](#) or visit our proposed regulations [website](#).

Please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.