



David E. Pierce, PhD
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

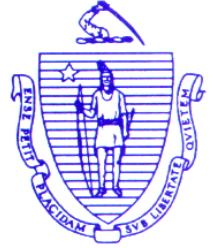
Division of Marine Fisheries

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May 4, 2018

Public Hearing Notice 2018 Recreational Fishing Limits

Under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A and pursuant to the authority found at M.G.L. c. 130 §§ 17, 80 and 104, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has scheduled public hearings and a public comment period to on emergency regulations that amend 322 CMR 6.00 to establish the 2018 recreational black sea bass, summer flounder (fluke), scup, and cod. The hearing schedule and proposals are as follows:

10:00 AM

June 14, 2018

SMAST East

836 South Rodney French Blvd

New Bedford, MA

1. **2018 Recreational Black Sea Bass Limits (322 CMR 6.28)**. This action establishes an open fishing season of May 19th – September 12th, providing 13 additional open fishing days at the end of the season. The bag limit and minimum size will remain status quo.
2. **2018 Recreational Summer Flounder Limits (322 CMR 6.22)**. This action establishes an open fishing season of May 23rd – October 9th, providing an additional 15 open fishing days. Additionally, it increases the bag limit by 1-fish from 4-fish to 5-fish. The minimum size will remain status quo.
3. **2018 Recreational Scup Limits (322 CMR 6.27)**. This action reduces the scup minimum size from 10” to 9”. The bag limit and seasons will remain status quo.
4. **2018 Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod Limits (322 CMR 6.03)**. This action prohibits the possession of Gulf of Maine cod by all recreational fishermen. This is consistent with current federal rules.
5. **2018 Recreational Georges Bank Cod Limits (322 CMR 6.03)**. This action increases the minimum size for Georges Bank cod from 22” to 23”. This is consistent with current federal rules.

Instructions for Written Comments

Written public comments will be accepted until 5PM on June 12, 2018. Address all comments to Director Pierce at marine.fish@state.ma.us or 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114. A full copy of the emergency regulations is available through Jared Silva (617-626-1534 or jared.silva@state.ma.us).