



David E. Pierce, PhD
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

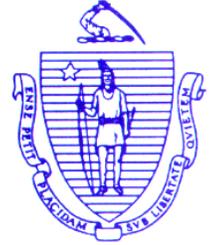
Division of Marine Fisheries

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May 16, 2019

Public Hearing Notice 2019 Recreational Fishing Limits Scup, Black Sea Bass, Cod and Haddock

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 amend 322 CMR 6.00. Proposals and hearing schedule are below. For a copy of the strikethrough regulatory text, please visit our [website](http://www.mass.gov/dmf) or contact Jared Silva (jared.silva@state.ma.us; 617-626-1534).

- 1. Recreational Black Sea Bass and Scup Limits (322 CMR 6.27 and 6.28).** DMF is taking public comment to codify those emergency regulations filed on April 12, 2019 enacting the 2019 recreational fishing limits for black sea bass and scup. These limits are described in the table below and more detail may be found in the April 2, 2019 rule announcement ([see Advisory](#)).

| 2019 Recreational Black Sea Bass and Scup Limits Enacted by Emergency Regulation | | | |
|--|------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Fishery | Open Season | Bag Limit | Minimum Size |
| Black Sea Bass | May 18 – September 8 | 5-fish | 15" |
| Scup (Private Angler) | January 1- December 31 | 30-fish | 9" |
| Scup (For-Hire) | January 1 – April 30 | 30-fish | 9" |
| | May 1 – June 30 | 50-fish | 9" |
| | July 1 – December 31 | 30-fish | 9" |

- 2. Recreational Cod and Haddock Limits (322 CMR 6.03).** DMF is taking public comment on filing emergency regulations to complement forthcoming federal cod and haddock recreational fishing limits for the current fishing year (May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020). The proposed federal cod and haddock measures are described in the table below and more details can be found in the May 10, 2019 federal proposed rule ([see Notice](#)). DMF anticipates the final federal rule and emergency state regulations to be implemented by early June.

| 2019 Recreational Cod and Haddock Limits to Complement Proposed Federal Regulations | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Fishery | Open Season | Bag Limit | Minimum Size |
| Gulf of Maine Haddock | April 15 – February 29 | 15-fish | 17" |
| Gulf of Maine Cod | September 15 – September 30 | 1-fish | 21" |
| | April 15 – April 30 | | |
| Georges Bank Cod | January 1 - December 31 | 10-fish | 21" |

Hearing Schedule

9:00 AM

June 13, 2019

DFW Field Head Quarters

1 Rabbit Hill Road

Westborough, MA

Written Public Comment Instructions

The Division of Marine Fisheries will accept public comment through 5PM on Wednesday, June 12, 2019. Please address all written comments to Director Pierce and submit to DMF by e-mail at marine.fish@state.ma.us or by post to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.