



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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September 9, 2021

Marine Fisheries Advisory

DMF PROPOSES TO ADOPT POSSESSION AND LANDING LIMIT TO COMPLEMENT FEDERAL WINTER II SCUP TRIP LIMIT

The Division of Marine Fisheries is proposing to complement the federal commercial scup trip limit for the Winter II period (October 1–December 31). While NOAA Fisheries has not yet announced the federal trip limit for this period, DMF anticipates it may be set at 22,500 pounds. The Winter II period is managed with a coastwide quota and trip limit given that the fishery occurs primarily in federal waters. This action is intended to allow those vessels fishing offshore to possess and land in Massachusetts ports scup that were lawfully caught in federal waters.

For 2021, the initial Winter II quota is 3.26 million pounds and the baseline federal trip limit for the period is 12,000 pounds. However, the federal trip limit increases from the baseline by 1,500 pounds for every 500,000 pounds of scup quota that is not landed during the Winter I period (January 1–April 30) and is consequentially rolled into the Winter II quota. Based on preliminary coastwide landings information, as much as 3.5–3.99 million pounds of unused Winter I quota may be added to the Winter II quota. As a result, DMF anticipates NOAA Fisheries will set the 2021 Winter II trip limit at 22,500 pounds; however, DMF intends to adopt whatever the final limit is as established by NOAA Fisheries based on their more complete Winter I landings tally.

Instructions for Public Comment

Public comment is now being sought on the proposed action to set the state's Winter II scup possession and landing limit commensurate with the federal trip limit for this period. Public comment will be accepted through 5PM on Thursday, September 23, 2021. All comments are to be submitted to DMF by e-mail (marine.fish@mass.gov) to the attention of Director McKiernan.

Public comment will be considered in DMF's final recommendation to the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC). If the recommendation is approved by the MFAC, the Winter II scup limits will be effective on October 1, 2021.

For more information about the management of marine fisheries in Massachusetts, contact DMF at 617-626-1520 or visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.