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Marine Fisheries Advisory

DECLARATION AFFECTING COMMERCIAL SCUP LIMITS DURING THE SUMMERTIME AND WINTER II PERIODS

With the approval of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries is issuing a Declaration that affects the commercial scup limits during the summertime (May 1 – October 31) and Winter II (November 1 – December 31) periods. This Declaration makes the following adjustments:

Summertime Limits. For the remainder of the May 1 – October 31 quota management period, the commercial scup trip limit has been increased to 2,000 pounds. This limit shall apply per trip or per calendar day, whichever period of time is longer. Additionally, the closed commercial scup fishing days have been eliminated and commercial fishermen are now allowed to fish for, retain and land scup seven-days per week. These adjustments are effective immediately and apply to all gear types. Note that mobile gear fishermen participating in the weekly aggregate commercial scup limit pilot program will receive an updated Letter of Authorization reflecting these changes to the commercial scup trip limit and fishing days.

Winter II Limits. The Winter II commercial trip limits have been established. Effective November 1 – December 31, 2016, commercial fishermen may possess and land 18,000 pounds of scup per day. This limit is designed to match the federal commercial scup trip limit established by the National Marine Fisheries Service for this period and thereby allow commercial fishermen to possess and land legally caught fish in Massachusetts.

The complete text of Massachusetts commercial scup regulations can be found at 322 CMR 6.28 and more information regarding the management of spiny dogfish in Massachusetts can be found on the *Marine Fisheries* website:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries