



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114
p: (617) 626-1520 | f: (617) 626-1509
www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

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Secretary

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September 22, 2022

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Commercial Summer Flounder Limits to Seasonally Increase on October 1 and Multi-State Limit Program to Apply

The commercial summer flounder trip limit will increase to 10,000 pounds per trip on Saturday, October 1. Unless otherwise notified, this 10,000-pound trip limit will remain in effect for the remainder of this calendar year. Additionally, the pilot program allowing trawlers to land two daily limits of summer flounder caught and retained over consecutive fishing days expires after September 30.

For 2022, the October 1–December 31 trip limit is the product of both a regulatorily scheduled seasonal increase to the trip limit and an in-season adjustment to the 2022 trip limit to enhance quota utilization. The fall and early winter summer flounder fishery principally occurs in federal waters and the regulatorily set trip limit for this October 1–December 31 period is 3,000 pounds if more than 5% of the annual quota remains. However, the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission has approved a DMF proposed in-season adjustment to increase the October 1–December 31 trip limit from 3,000 pounds to 10,000 pounds for this calendar year ([Declaration Notice](#)) based on quota utilization. This in-season adjustment will make the state's trip limit comparable in scale to other states along the Atlantic coast and thereby encourage Massachusetts permit holders fishing along the northeast coast to land their catch in-state rather than steaming to another state with higher landing limits. This may allow for greater utilization of the state's available commercial summer flounder quota and promote local seafood production.

Additionally, beginning on October 1 vessels permitted in multiple states to land summer flounder may obtain a Letter of Authorization to possess more than the state's summer flounder trip limit when offloading, provided the vessel does not land more than the state's trip limit and all other fish in possession is clearly labeled identifying the state it is to be landed in and it remains onboard the vessel during offloading in Massachusetts. To obtain this Letter of Authorization, please submit to Julia Kaplan (julia.kaplan@mass.gov) the following information: (1) permit holder name; (2) vessel name; (3) DMF permit identification number; and (4) vessel documentation or registration number.

For more information regarding the management of summer flounder in Massachusetts, please visit our website (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).