



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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### Marine Fisheries Advisory

#### **COMMERCIAL SCUP POSSESSION LIMIT FOR 2021 WINTER II PERIOD SET AT 21,000 POUNDS**

The Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), with approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, has established Massachusetts' 2021 Winter II (October 1 – December 31) commercial scup possession and landing limit ([Declaration Notice](#)). During this period, commercial fishermen may retain, possess and land up to 21,000 pounds of scup in Massachusetts. This limit applies per calendar day or per trip, whichever period of time is longer.

The Winter II fishery is a federally managed quota period. NOAA Fisheries sets the trip limit for this period based on the magnitude of the period's coastwide quota plus any unused quota rolled over from the federally managed Winter I period (January 1 – April 30). The initial 2021 quota for this period was set at 3.27 million pounds (mlb) with a baseline trip limit of 12,000 pounds. However, 3.42 mlb of unused quota was rolled over from the Winter I period resulting in a revised Winter II quota of 6.68 million pounds. Per the management plan, the baseline trip limit is increased by 1,500 pounds for every 500,000 pounds of quota transferred to the Winter II fishery. Accordingly, the 2021 federal trip limit was increased to 21,000 pounds for this period (see [Bulletin](#)).

DMF has historically adopted complementary state limits during the federally managed Winter I and Winter II periods. While scup are not typically available at these quantities in our state waters during the winter and state restrictions on mobile gear effectively limit the ability for vessels to target scup at these levels inshore, this action enables vessels fishing offshore in federal waters for scup to land these fish in Massachusetts ports.

For more information regarding the management of scup in Massachusetts, please visit our website ([www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)) or call DMF at 617-626-1520.