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Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

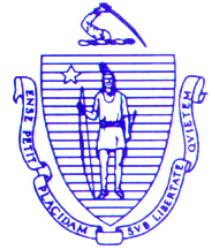
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September 25, 2017

Marine Fisheries Advisory

COMMERCIAL SCUP LIMITS FOR WINTER II PERIOD

The National Marine Fisheries Service has adjusted the quota and trip limit for the 2017 Winter II (November 1–December 31) commercial scup fishery ([Federal Register](#)). The initial quota for this federally managed period was 2.93 million pounds. However, due to a coastwide underage of 2.23 million pounds during the federally managed 2017 Winter I fishery (January 1–April 30), the 2017 Winter II quota was increased to 5.16 million pounds. As the quota rollover from the Winter I period to the Winter II period exceeded 2 million pounds, the federal possession limit was also increased from 12,000 pounds to 18,000 pounds.

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is proposing to set the state possession and landing limit for this period at 18,000 pounds to complement the federal limit. While scup are not typically available in these quantities in our state waters during November and December, this will allow vessels fishing in other jurisdictions (e.g., federal waters) to land their catch of scup in our ports.

DMF is also accepting public comment on this proposal. Public comment will be accepted through 5PM on October 9. Written comment may be submitted to Director David Pierce by e-mail to marine.fish@state.ma.us or by post sent to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.

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