



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

COMMERCIAL SCUP POSSESSION LIMIT FOR 2020 WINTER II PERIOD SET AT 24,000 POUNDS

The Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), with approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, has established Massachusetts' 2020 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 24,000 pounds of scup in Massachusetts. This limit applies per calendar day or per trip, whichever period of time is longer.

The possession limit for the federally managed Winter II fishery is based on the magnitude of the period's coastwide quota plus any unused quota rolled over from the federally managed Winter I period. For 2020, NOAA Fisheries transferred 4,850,96 pounds of unused quota from the Winter I period to the Winter II period, resulting in a revised Winter II period quota of 8,394,299 pounds. As a result, the federal trip limit was increased from 12,000 pounds to 24,000 pounds (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, this action allows offshore vessels catching scup to lawfully transit our waters and land their harvest in Massachusetts ports.

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.