



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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### Marine Fisheries Advisory

#### **DMF Proposing In-Season Increase to Commercial Summer Flounder Limits**

As of this week, approximately 75% of the state's 786,399-pound annual summer flounder quota has been taken. With just over two months left in the season, and approximately 200,000 pounds of quota remaining, DMF is proposing to increase the commercial trip limit for summer flounder from 1,000 pounds to 2,000 pounds, effective November 1, 2020. This proposed action is designed to allow vessels fishing offshore in the federal zone to retain more summer flounder per trip and have greater access to the remaining quota. DMF considers this to be a conservation neutral proposal, as quotas are set in accordance with the stock assessment and take into consideration biomass and target mortality rates.

DMF is seeking public comment on this proposal (see instructions below). In accordance with 322 CMR 6.41(2)(d), this public comment period will run concurrent with a vote on the proposal by the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC). The MFAC is scheduled to meet on October 29, 2020 via Zoom and will vote on this proposal at this meeting. More information about this meeting can be found on the [MFAC's website](#). If approved, this trip limit adjustment will be announced on October 30, 2020 and will be in effect on November 1, 2020 for the remainder of 2020 or until 100% of the 2020 summer flounder quota has been taken.

#### **Instructions for Public Comment**

DMF will be accepting public comment on these proposals through 5PM on Thursday, November 5, 2020. Please address all written comments to Director Dan McKiernan. All comments are to be submitted to DMF by e-mail ([marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov)) or by post (251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114). All comment received prior to the October 29, 2020 MFAC business meeting will be provided to Commission members for their review and consideration; all comment received on or after that date will be considered in future decision making.

For more information about the management of marine fisheries in Massachusetts, contact DMF at [marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov) or visit our website at [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).