



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

Commercial Scup Possession Limit for Winter Periods

NOAA Fisheries has announced a 24,000-pound federal possession limit for scup during the 2022 Winter II Period of October 1–December 31 ([Bulletin](#)). Commercial fishers targeting scup in state waters are reminded that the state waters limit during the Winter I and Winter I periods (October 1–April 30) is 2,000 pounds. However, vessels with federal scup permits may exceed the state limit provided the non-conforming fish were lawfully taken from federal waters; the vessel is transiting through state waters and makes no stops except to land fish in a Massachusetts port (unless so directed by law enforcement personnel); all fishing gear is out of the water and properly stowed onboard the vessel; and all other applicable federal regulations are followed.

This fixed state waters limit was implemented by regulation earlier this year to replace the use of the Declaration Process to seasonally establish a state waters limit matching the variable federal waters limit. Establishing the 2,000-pound limit with a transiting exception achieves the same goals of completing federal waters management during the largely offshore fishing periods while recognizing the potential for limited state waters catch, but in a more efficient manner.

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