



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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November 1, 2024
Marine Fisheries Advisory

Reminder of Industry Scoping Meeting: 2025 Inshore Summer Flounder Commercial Fishery Management

The Division of Marine Fisheries is holding an industry scoping meeting to discuss the state's management of the 2025 summertime commercial summer flounder fishery. During the meeting, DMF will review recent fishery performance and the existing management measures before seeking input on potential revisions for 2025. This scoping meeting serves as a precursor to DMF developing any specific management proposals that would be subject to public comment prior to rulemaking. The meeting is scheduled for:

**November 4, 2024 at 6PM
SMAST East – Room 102 and 103
836 South Rodney French Blvd
New Bedford, MA 02747**

Massachusetts' commercial summer flounder quota for 2025 is expected to be around 600,000 pounds. Under a similar quota in 2024, the fishery closed on August 28 when 100% of the quota was projected to be taken. DMF seeks to manage the summer flounder fishery to achieve the annual quota in an economically efficient manner while also maintaining access to the resource throughout its period of nearshore availability. DMF is interested in discussing potential options to fine-tune the management of this fishery for 2025. Based on informal input from industry and discussion with the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, areas of potential interest include: (1) adjusting the trip limits; (2) refining the quota-use based trip limit triggers; (3) modifying or eliminating the multi-day program for trawlers; (4) setting aside an allocation of quota for September; and (5) developing gear specific sub-quotas (i.e., hook and mobile gear quota allocations). Additionally, DMF seeks input from trawl fishery participants on the management of other resources caught alongside summer flounder during the summertime inshore trawl fishery.

Please contact Jared Silva at jared.silva@mass.gov or 617-634-9573 for more information about the meeting.