



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114

p: (617) 626-1520 | f: (617) 626-1509

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER
Secretary

RONALD S. AMIDON
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

November 27, 2023

Marine Fisheries Advisory

2024 Commercial Summer Flounder Period I Trip Limit Reduced to 5,000 Pounds

The Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), with approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, has decreased Massachusetts' 2024 Period I (January 1–April 22) commercial summer flounder possession and landing limit from 10,000 pounds to 5,000 pounds ([Declaration Notice](#)). This responds to an anticipated decrease in the state's commercial summer flounder quota of about 56% for 2024. The Period I summer flounder fishery is allocated 30% of the state's annual quota and would likely close early under the 10,000-pound trip limit given this quota reduction. Unless otherwise adjusted, this trip limit shall remain in effect through April 22 or until the period's quota allocation is taken and the possession and landing limit is reduced to 100 pounds. These possession and landing limits apply per trip or per calendar day, whichever period of time is longer.

This large reduction in the state's quota is being driven by two factors. First, the coastwide commercial quota is being reduced by 42% (from 15.27 to 8.79 million pounds) in response to the most recent stock assessment that shows that while the stock is not overfished, overfishing was occurring in 2022 and spawning stock biomass has been overestimated in recent years and is now trending downward. Second, because the coastwide quota is being reduced below 9.55 million pounds, the state's quota allocation will be its baseline 6.82% share, rather than the near 9% share we have experienced in recent years under the provisions of Amendment 21 to the Fishery Management Plan that attempts to increase equity across states when the stock is in a strong condition.

During Period I, commercial fishers who are permitted to land summer flounder in multiple states are authorized to possess non-conforming quantities of summer flounder while in Commonwealth waters and ports. The non-conforming quantities of summer flounder must be clearly labeled with the state it is to be landed in, must comply with that state's commercial summer flounder limits, and must remain on the vessel while the Massachusetts limit is being landed. Commercial fishers are no longer required to obtain a Letter of Authorization or call into the Massachusetts Environmental Police prior to landing.

Please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries