



**David E. Pierce, PhD.**  
*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

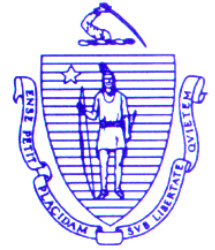
## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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*Deputy Commissioner*

November 28, 2018

*Marine Fisheries Advisory*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT:**

### **2019 WINTER I (JANUARY – APRIL) COMMERCIAL SCUP LIMIT**

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The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is proposing to set the state commercial possession and landing limit for scup during January 1–April 30 at 50,000 pounds, commensurate with the anticipated federal trip limit. While scup are not typically available in these quantities in our state waters during the winter, this will allow vessels fishing in other jurisdictions (e.g., federal waters) to land their lawfully caught scup in our ports.

The National Marine Fisheries Service is currently taking comment on the 2019 commercial scup specifications ([Federal Register Notice](#)). Under the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Scup FMP, the federally managed Winter I fishery, which occurs from January 1–April 30, receives 45.11% of the overall commercial quota. The proposed 2019 coastwide quota is 23.98 million pounds (mlbs), providing the Winter I fishery with 10.82 mlbs of quota. The Council recommended no change to the federal Winter I commercial trip limit, which has been set at 50,000 pounds since 2012. If 80% of the Winter I quota allocation is reached, the federal trip limit will be reduced to 1,000 pounds.

DMF is accepting public comment on this proposal. Public comment will be accepted through 5PM on Friday, December 12, 2018. Written comment may be submitted to Director David Pierce by e-mail to [marine.fish@state.ma.us](mailto:marine.fish@state.ma.us) or by post sent to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.

For more information regarding the management of scup in Massachusetts, please visit our website ([www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)) or call DMF at 617-626-1520.