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Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

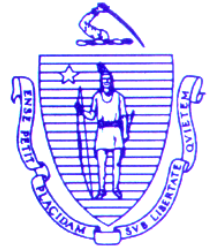
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November 9, 2017

Marine Fisheries Advisory

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON WINTER I (JANUARY – APRIL) COMMERCIAL SCUP LIMITS DURING

The National Marine Fisheries Service is currently taking comment on the 2018 commercial scup specifications ([Federal Register Notice](#)). The proposed 2018 coast-wide quota is 23.98 million pounds (mlbs). The federally managed Winter I fishery, which occurs from January 1 – April 30, receives 45.11% of the overall commercial quota (underages may be rolled over to the Winter II period). Accordingly, the 2018 Winter I quota is expected to be set at approximately 10.82 mlbs.

Under the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Scup FMP, the 2018 federal Winter I commercial trip limits will then be set at 50,000 pounds. Once 80% of the Winter I quota allocation is reached the federal trip limit will then be reduced to 1,000 pounds.

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is proposing to set the state possession and landing limit for this period at 50,000 pounds to complement the federal 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 catch of scup in our ports.

DMF is accepting public comment on this proposal. Public comment will be accepted through 5PM on Friday, December 1, 2017. Written comment may be submitted to Director David Pierce by e-mail to 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) or call DMF at 617-626-1520.