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Acting Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

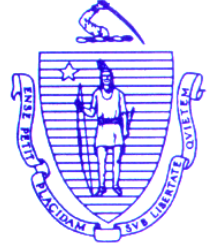
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December 4, 2019

Marine Fisheries Advisory

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT: 2020 WINTER I COMMERCIAL SCUP LIMIT

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is proposing to set the state's 2020 Winter I (January 1–April 30) commercial scup possession and landing limit at 50,000 pounds. This is 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.

Under the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Scup Fishery Management Plan (FMP), the federally managed Winter I fishery occurs from January 1–April 30 and receives 45.11% of the overall commercial quota. The initial 2020 coastwide quota is 23.98 million pounds (mlb) resulting in a Winter I fishery quota allocation of 10.82 mlb. Based on this quota level, the federal Winter I commercial trip limit has been set at 50,000 pounds; it has been set at this level since 2012. If 80% of the Winter I quota allocation is landed, 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 Wednesday, December 18, 2019. Written comment may be submitted to Acting Director Daniel McKiernan by e-mail to marine.fish@state.ma.us or by post sent to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114. The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission will consider adopting the 2020 Winter I limit at its December 19, 2019 business meeting.

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.