



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

2021 PERIOD I COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER TRIP LIMIT INCREASED TO 2,000 POUNDS

The Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), with approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, has increased Massachusetts' 2021 Period I (January 1–April 22) commercial summer flounder possession and landing limit from 1,000 pounds to 2,000 pounds ([Declaration Notice](#)). The Period I fishery is allocated 30% of the state's annual quota. Unless otherwise adjusted, this trip limit shall remain in effect through April 22 or until 25% of the annual quota 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.

For 2021, Massachusetts' summer flounder commercial quota is expected to increase by 29% from its 2020 level (from 786,399 pounds to 1,015,179 pounds). This action to increase the Period I trip limit is designed to distribute the anticipated quota increase throughout the year and amongst the various fishery participants. Note that most of this anticipated quota increase in Massachusetts is the result of a management action to reallocate quota from other states to address the shifting spatial distribution of the stock to the north and the east. Coastwide, the majority of the summer flounder commercial harvest occurs in federal waters, particularly during the wintertime and its shoulder seasons. Under the reallocation approach, this seasonal harvest of fish will continue to occur in federal waters, but more of it will be landed in Massachusetts benefiting our seafood industry.

Fishermen are also reminded that DMF has renewed its pilot program for the Period I summer flounder fishery. This program allows vessels permitted in multiple states to possess non-conforming quantities of summer flounder and black sea bass while offloading in a Massachusetts port. For details on how to enroll in this program, please see DMF's November 17, 2020 [Advisory](#) on the subject. You may also e-mail Julia Kaplan (julia.kaplan@mass.gov) for additional information and guidance on how to enroll.

Please visit our www.mass.gov/marinefisheries for more information regarding summer flounder.