



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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December 11, 2020

Marine Fisheries Advisory

COMMERCIAL SCUP COMMERCIAL POSSESSION LIMIT FOR 2021 WINTER I PERIOD SET AT 50,000 POUNDS

The Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), with approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, has established Massachusetts' 2021 Winter I (January 1 – April 30) commercial scup possession and landing limit ([Declaration Notice](#)). During this period, commercial fishermen may retain, possess and land up to 50,000 pounds of scup in Massachusetts. This limit applies per calendar day or per trip, whichever period of time is longer.

The federal coastwide quota for the 2021 Winter I fishery is 9.24 million pounds. If 80% of this period's quota is taken then the state and federal trip limits are reduced to 1,000 pounds. Additionally, trawlers fishing with small mesh (less than 5" diamond) are subject to the state's incidental possession limits for scup. Within the Winter I period, these incidental possession limits are 1,000 pounds during January 1–April 14 and 2,000 pounds during April 15–April 30.

The possession limit for the federally managed Winter I fishery is based on the magnitude of the period's coastwide quota. DMF has historically take action to adopt complementary state limits during this federally managed period. While scup are not typically available at these quantities in our state waters during the winter and early spring, and state restrictions on mobile gear effectively limit the ability for vessels to target scup at these levels, this action allows offshore vessels catching scup to lawfully transit our waters and land their harvest in Massachusetts ports.

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.