



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



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Director

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

Commercial Summer Flounder Period I Trip Limit Reduction and Multi-State Program Suspension

The Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), with approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, has decreased Massachusetts' 2025 Period I (January 1–April 22) commercial summer flounder possession and landing limit from 5,000 pounds to 2,000 pounds ([Declaration Notice](#)). This trip limit will be further reduced to 100 pounds once 30% of the annual quota is projected to be taken.

The Period I fishery occurs offshore in federal waters on multi-day trips. The period is allocated 30% of the state's annual quota, with the remainder allocated to the Period II (April 23 – December 31) fishery and is principally taken by inshore draggers and hook and line fishers during the summer and early fall. With the state's 2025 commercial summer flounder quota being set at approximately 600,000 pounds, Period I will receive an allocation of around 200,000 pounds. This is similar to the conditions in 2024 when the Period I quota allocation lasted only about five weeks. DMF anticipates this trip limit adjustment will slow the quota consumption rate compared to this past season and will allow for a longer season to be achieved. The action should also reduce the risk that the Period I quota allocation is exceeded reducing the quota available to the Period II fishery.

Additionally, DMF will not reauthorize the so-called "Multi-State Program" for 2025. In prior years, this program allowed vessels permitted to land summer flounder in multiple states to possess non-conforming quantities of summer flounder when offloading a state's limit provided fish destined for each state are segregated and clearly labeled and the limit for each state is not exceeded. DMF's decision to not renew this program is due to concerns about quota utilization rates during the Period I fishery and the limited use by Massachusetts homeported vessels.

For more information on the management of commercial fisheries in Massachusetts, please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries