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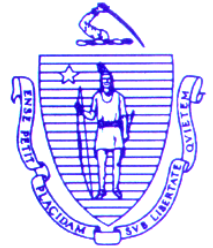
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Marine Fisheries Advisory

COMMERCIAL SCUP LIMITS FOR WINTER I PERIOD

The Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), with approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, has declared Massachusetts' Winter I (January 1 – April 30) scup commercial possession and landing limit ([Declaration Notice](#)). During this period, commercial fishermen may possess and land up to 50,000 pounds of scup in Massachusetts. If 80% of the federal Winter I quota allocation is taken, the possession limit will be reduced to 1,000 pounds. Note that trawl vessels fishing nets with meshes less than 5" diamond in the cod end may not take, possess or land 1,000 pounds of scup. These limits are enforceable by regulation and permit condition ([Statement of Conditions](#)).

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has set the 2018 commercial scup coast-wide quota at 23.98 million pounds (mlbs). This quota is allocated into three periods: Winter I; Summer; and Winter II. The Winter I and II periods are federally managed, while the summer quota allocation is divided among the Atlantic coastal states and managed at a state level. The Winter I period receives 45.11% of the overall coast-wide quota. As a result, in 2018 the Winter I quota allocation is 10.82 million pounds. For this period NMFS has set a 50,000 pound trip limit, which is reduced to 1,000 pounds if 80% of the Winter I quota allocation is taken.

DMF historically has set state possession and landing limits that are consistent with the federal limits possession limits. This allows offshore vessels catching scup during the winter to lawfully transit our waters and land their catch in Massachusetts.

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.