



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

COMMERCIAL SCUP POSSESSION LIMIT FOR 2022 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' 2022 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 2022 Winter I fishery is 9.2 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 annual coastwide quota and the resulting Winter I quota allocation. NOAA Fisheries has set the Winter I trip limit at 50,000 pounds since 2012. During this period the annual coastwide quota has fluctuated between 28 and 18 million pounds; for 2022 the anticipated quota is about 20.4 million pounds.

DMF has historically taken 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.