



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114
p: (617) 626-1520 | f: (617) 626-1509
www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

KATHLEEN A. THEOHARIDES
Secretary

RONALD S. AMIDON
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

December 2, 2021

Marine Fisheries Advisory

DMF to Increase 2022 Period I Summer Flounder Trip Limit and Renew Multi-State Pilot Program

Period I Trip Limit Increase

The Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), with approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, has increased Massachusetts' 2022 Period I (January 1–April 22) commercial summer flounder possession and landing limit from 1,000 pounds to 2,500 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 2022, Massachusetts' summer flounder commercial quota is expected to be set at 1.39 million pounds, a 37% from its 2021 level. 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. Coastwide, the majority of the summer flounder commercial harvest occurs in federal waters, particularly during the wintertime and its shoulder seasons.

Period I Multi-State Pilot Program

Additionally, DMF is renewing a pilot program that allows the possession of multiple states' limits of summer flounder and black sea bass during the offshore wintertime fishery. Through this program, vessels permitted to land summer flounder and black sea bass in Massachusetts, as well the adjacent states of Rhode Island, Connecticut, or New York ("participating states"), will be authorized to possess non-confirming quantities of these species when landing in Massachusetts. This allowance is contingent on the vessel properly labeling the catch destined for each state, not exceeding the aggregate trip limit for the participating states where they are permitted, and not offloading more than the state's applicable landing limits. To participate in this pilot program, a vessel must hold a summer flounder permit endorsement in Massachusetts and a similar permit in another participating state. If a vessel additionally holds a black sea bass permit endorsement in Massachusetts and its equivalent one of these participating states, the pilot program authorization will also apply to this species. Additionally, the vessel must be equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System as required by NOAA Fisheries.

If you meet these qualifying criteria, you may apply for a Letter of Authorization (LOA) to participate in this pilot program by providing DMF with the following information: (1) permit holder name; (2) vessel name; (3) DMF's permit ID number; and (4) vessel documentation number. Please provide this necessary information to the attention of Julia Kaplan via e-mail (julia.kaplan@mass.gov). DMF will begin to issue Letters of Authorization in mid-December 2021 for implementation on January 1, 2022.

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