

6.03: Regulated Multi-species Groundfish

(2) **Size Limits.** ~~Minimum Sizes.~~ It shall be ~~is~~ unlawful to retain, possess or land ~~land or possess~~ multispecies groundfish **of a total length of: of a total length less than the following**

(a) Commercial Fishing.

1. Cod: **less than** 19 inches;
2. Dabs: **less than** 12 inches;
3. Haddock: **less than** 16 inches;
4. Pollock: **less than** 19 inches;
5. Yellowtail flounder: **less than** 12 inches;
6. Halibut: **less than** 41 inches;
7. Monkfish: **less than** 17 inches in total length or monkfish tails less than 11 inches in total length;
8. Windowpane Flounder: **less than** 12 inches;
9. Winter Flounder: **less than** 12 inches;
10. Witch Flounder: **less than** 13 inches; and
11. Redfish: **less than** seven inches.

(b) Recreational Fishing.

1. Cod:
 - a. **less than 22 ~~21~~ inches or 28" or greater** in the Southern New England Groundfish Management Area ~~and the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area~~ ;
 - b. **less than 22 inches in the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.**
2. Dabs: **less than** 14 inches;
3. Haddock:
 - a. **less than** 17 inches in the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area;
 - b. **less than** 18 inches in the Southern New England Groundfish Management Area.
4. Yellowtail flounder: **less than** 13 inches;
5. Halibut: **less than** 41 inches;
6. Windowpane Flounder: **less than** 12 inches; and
7. Winter Flounder: **less than** 12 inches.

(4) Recreational Fishery Cod Limit.

(a) Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.

1. Open Season. During the period of April 1 through April 14 and September **1 ~~15~~** through **~~September 30~~ October 7**, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess or land more than one cod per day taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.
2. Closed Season. During the period of April 15 through **August 31 ~~September 14~~** and October **8 ~~1~~** through March 31, it shall be unlawful for **any** recreational fisherman to retain, possess or land any cod taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.

(b) Southern New England Groundfish Management Area. ~~It is shall be unlawful for recreational fishermen to possess more than ten cod per person, per day taken from the Southern New England Groundfish Management Area.~~

1. Open Season. During the period of August 1 through April 30, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess or land more than five cod per day taken from the Southern New England Management Area.

2. Closed Season. During the period of May 1 through July 31, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess or land any cod taken from the Southern New England Management Area.

(c) Exceptions. Customers aboard for-hire vessels fishing in federal waters may possess and land cod in compliance with federal regulations.

(12) Haddock Fishery Limits.

(a) Recreational Fishery in Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.

1. Open Season. During the period of April 1 through the last day of February, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess or land more than **20** ~~15~~ haddock per day taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.

2. Closed Season. During the period of March 1 through March 31, it shall be unlawful for **any** recreational fisherman to retain, possess or land any haddock taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.

(b) Exceptions. Customers aboard for-hire vessels fishing in federal waters may possess and land haddock in compliance with federal regulations.

6.22: Summer Flounder (Fluke) Restrictions

(4) Recreational Fishery Season and Limits.

(a) Minimum Size. It shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess, or land a summer flounder with a total length of less than 16.5”.

(b) Open Season. During the period of May 21 through September 29, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess, or land more than five summer flounder per day.

(c) Closed Season. From September 30 through May 20, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess, or land any summer flounder.

~~(a) Seasonal Possession and Landing Limits.~~

~~1. Closed Season. From October 10 through May 22, it shall be unlawful for a recreational fisherman to possess or land any quantity of summer flounder;~~

~~2. Open Season. From May 23 through October 9, it shall be unlawful for a recreational fisherman to possess or land in excess of five summer flounder per calendar day. (b) Minimum Size. It shall be unlawful for recreational fishermen to land or possess summer flounder less than 17 inches in total length.~~

6.27: Scup Fishery Management

(3) Recreational Fishery Regulations.

(a) Minimum Size. It is unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess scup less than **10 ~~nine~~** inches in total length.

(b) Possession and Landing Limits. It shall be unlawful for any recreational **fisherman-~~angler~~** to **retain**, possess or land more than 30 scup per **calendar** day. If there are six or more recreational **fishermen ~~anglers~~** onboard any vessel, the aggregate number of scup possessed by all **recreational fishermen ~~anglers~~** onboard the vessel shall not exceed 150 fish.

(c) Exemptions for For-hire Vessels. For-hire vessels carrying patrons are provided the following exemptions to the possession and landing limits set forth at 322 CMR 6.27(3)(b):

1. Bonus Season. During the period of May 1 through June 30 any recreational **fisherman ~~angler~~** fishing as a patron onboard a for-hire vessel may retain up to 50 scup per **calendar** day.
2. Vessel Limit. The vessel limit of 150 scup per **calendar** day shall not apply.

6.28: Black Sea Bass Fishery Management

(3) Recreational Fishery Regulations.

(a) Minimum Size. It shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to **retain, possess, or land** black sea bass **measuring** less than **16 ~~15~~** inches in total length not including the tail tendril.

(b) Open Season. During the period of May 21 through September 4, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess, or land more than four black sea bass per day.

(c) Closed Season. During the period of September 5 through May 20, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess, or land any black sea bass.

~~(b) Seasonal Possession Restrictions.~~

~~1. Closed Season. During the period of September 9 through May 17, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess, or land any quantity of black sea bass.~~

~~2. Open Fishing Season. During the period of May 18 through September 8, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess, or land more than five black sea bass per calendar day.~~