



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



MAURA HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lt. Governor

REBECCA TEPPER
Secretary

RONALD S. AMIDON
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

April 28, 2023

Notice of Public Hearings and Public Comment Period: 2023 Recreational Fishing Regulations for Black Sea Bass and Scup

Under the provisions of G.L. c. 30A and pursuant to the authority found at G.L. c. 130 §§ 17, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is taking public comment on recently enacted emergency regulations amending 322 CMR 6.00 to implement the 2023 recreational fishing limits for black sea bass and scup. These emergency regulations, which are described below, are designed to reduce recreational harvest by 10% in 2023 for each species, as necessary to meet coastwide mandates. Full text of the regulations may be found on [DMF's website](#) along with additional relevant background information.

Recreational Scup Limits (322 CMR 6.27). DMF is taking public comment on emergency regulations that: establish a January 1–April 30 closure for all anglers; increase the minimum size limit from 10” to 10.5” for vessel-based anglers (both private mode and for-hire mode); reduce the minimum size limit from 10” to 9.5” for shore-based anglers for environmental justice purposes; and reduce the May 1 – June 30 for-hire bonus season bag limit from 50-fish to 40-fish. The changes are described in the table below:

Species	Mode	Season	Bag Limit	Size Limit
Scup	Private Boat	May 1 – Dec 31 Jan 1 – Dec 31	30-fish	10.5” 10”
	Shore Angler	May 1 – Dec 31 Jan 1 – Dec 31	30-fish	9.5” 10”
	For-Hire Vessel	Jan 1 – Apr 30 May 1 – Jun 30 July 1 – Dec 31	30-fish 40-fish 50-fish 30-fish	10.5” 10”

Recreational Black Sea Bass (322 CMR 6.28). DMF is taking public comment on emergency regulations that: (1) increase to the minimum size limit from 16” to 16.5”; and (2) adjust the open fishing season so that it continues to open on a Saturday and provide the longest season possible at the status quo bag limit. The changes are described in the table below:

Species	Mode	Season	Bag Limit	Size Limit
Black Sea Bass	All Anglers	May 20 – Sept 7 May 21 – Sept 4	4-fish	16.5” 16”

Public Hearing and Comment Schedule

DMF will host a virtual public hearing on Monday, June 5, 2023 at 6PM. To attend the virtual public hearing you must pre-register here: <https://bit.ly/4483K83>. Additionally, DMF will accept written public comment through 5PM on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. Submit written comments to Director Daniel McKiernan by e-mail (marine.fish@mass.gov).