



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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MarineFisheries Advisory

NEW REGULATIONS AFFECTING THE COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER TRIP LIMITS; DMF TO RENEW THE CONSECUTIVE DAILY TRIP LIMIT PROGRAM

Updates for 2024

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is making several adjustments to the commercial summer flounder trip limits effective this year. These changes respond to recent fishery performance, as well as a substantial decrease in the annual quota, and seek to establish more adaptive management to quota utilization. While the trip limits for the Period II summertime fishery (April 23–September 30) will remain at 600 pounds for net fishers and 400 pounds for hook fishers, these limits will now automatically decrease to 400 pounds for net fishers and 250 pounds for hook fishers if 75% of the quota is taken before August 1. (As in the prior two years, these trip limits will automatically increase to 800 pounds for all gear types on September 1 if more than 20% of the quota remains available.)

The trip limit for the Period II fall fishery (October 1–December 31) will be set at 5,000 pounds if more than 10% of the quota remains on October 1 (rather than 10,000 pounds if more than 5% of the quota remains) or 800 pounds if 10% or less of the quota remains. For 2025 and beyond, the Period I (January 1–April 22) trip limit will remain at 5,000 pounds (as it was set by Declaration for 2024), with an automatic reduction to 100 pounds once 30% of the quota is taken.

Consecutive Daily Trip Limit Program

For the Period II summertime fishery, DMF will also renew the Consecutive Daily Trip Limit Program. This program allows vessels participating in the summertime mixed species trawl fishery south of Cape Cod to possess and land two days' trip limits of certain species that were lawfully caught and retained over consecutive fishing days provided each day's catch is segregated and tagged. This program is designed to enhance economic efficiency and address on-the-water safety issues.

For 2024, allowed species will include summer flounder, black sea bass, horseshoe crab, and whelk; other species may be added in-season. Trawlers using large mesh may continue to possess and land scup during this period consistent with the existing 10,000-pound weekly aggregate trip limit. To be eligible to participate, the permit holder must hold a Coastal Access Permit and relevant species-specific regulated fishery permit endorsements. To apply, please complete this [application](#) and submit by e-mail to Jared Silva (jared.silva@mass.gov). DMF will begin to review and process these applications in early-May and eligible applicants will receive their Letter of Authorization and sequentially numbered plastic tags (for sealing each day's catch separately) shortly thereafter.

For more information, please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.