



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

Update on Recreational Black Sea Bass and Scup Limits for 2023

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has implemented the 2023 recreational fishing limits for black sea bass and scup. The limits are described in the table below:

Species	Fishing Mode	Open Season	Possession Limit	Minimum Size
Black Sea Bass	All Anglers	May 20 – September 7	4 fish	16.5"
Scup	Shore	May 1 – December 31	30 fish	9.5"
	Private Vessel	May 1 – December 31	30 fish	10.5"
	For-Hire Vessel	May 1 – June 30	40 fish	10.5"
July 1 – December 31		30 fish		

These limits are designed to reduce recreational harvest for both species by 10%, as necessary to comply with federal and interstate mandates. DMF has implemented these limits under its emergency regulatory authority so as to ensure they are in effect for May 1. Emergency regulations are effective when filed and remain in effect for a 90-day period. During this 90-day period, DMF intends to renew these regulations to allow them to apply through the remainder of the fishing season. To this end, DMF is holding a written public comment period through June 7, 2023. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to marine.fish@mass.gov. Additionally, DMF will hold a virtual public hearing on June 5 at 6PM, for which interested individuals may pre-register [here](#). For all relevant details, please view the [Public Hearing Notice](#) or visit DMF's [proposed regulations webpage](#).

Refer to the DMF website for a full list of 2023 recreational saltwater fishing regulations:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/recreational-saltwater-fishing-regulations>