



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

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June 29, 2023

Marine Fisheries Advisory

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON IN-SEASON ADJUSTMENT TO COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER TRIP LIMITS FOR 2023

DMF is proposing an in-season adjustment to increase the commercial summer flounder trip limits during the remainder of the 2023 summertime period (April 23–August 31). For commercial fishers using nets, the proposal will increase the trip limit from 500 pounds to 600 pounds, and for hook and line fishers, it will increase the trip limit from 300 pounds to 400 pounds.

The 2023 quota is set at 1.36 million pounds and as of today about 367,000 pounds has been reported landed (~27%). Increasing the trip limits for this period will allow active fishers greater access to the available quota. Moreover, this will more-timely implement the regulatory adjustment to increase the summertime trip limits approved by the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission at their May 2023 business meeting, which due to unforeseen delays, has yet to be enacted.

Instructions for Public Comment

DMF will accept written public comment through Wednesday, July 13, 2023. Please address all written comments to Director Daniel McKiernan and submit them by e-mail to marine.fish@mass.gov.

Public comment will be considered in DMF's recommendation to the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC). The MFAC will review the public comments and vote on DMF's recommendation at their July 10, 2023 business meeting. If approved by the MFAC, the in-season adjustment is expected to go into effect July 11 through August 31, 2023, unless otherwise amended.