



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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August 29, 2022

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Public Comment Sought on Proposed Increase to 2022 Summer Flounder Commercial Trip Limit During October - December

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is accepting public comment on a proposed in-season adjustment to the 2022 commercial summer flounder trip limits during the fall and early winter season. Specifically, from October 1 – December 31, DMF seeks to increase the trip limit from 3,000 pounds to 10,000 pounds; this trip limit applies per day or per trip whichever period of time is longer. This proposed action responds to the utilization of the 2022 quota; the most recent quota monitoring data suggests the commercial fishery has landed approximately 40% of its 1.39 million pound quota.

The fall and early winter fishery principally occurs offshore in federal waters. The proposed trip limit is anticipated to encourage Massachusetts' permit holders fishing offshore to land their catch in Massachusetts ports. Moreover, it should better align the landing limit to the overhead associated with having to steam to offshore fishing grounds, allowing for greater quota utilization and the promotion of local seafood.

DMF is accepting public comment on this proposed adjustment through 5PM on Monday, September 12, 2022. Written comment may be submitted to Director Daniel McKiernan by e-mail to marine.fish@mass.gov or by post to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114. The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission will consider adopting this trip limit increase at its September 13, 2022 business meeting. If approved by the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, the adjusted 2022 trip limit will be implemented through the issuance of temporary permit conditions.

For more information regarding the management of summer flounder in Massachusetts, please visit our website (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).