



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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April 29, 2022

Notice of Virtual Public Hearings and Public Comment Period on 2022 Adjustments to Certain Recreational Fishing Limits

Under the provisions of G.L. c. 30A and pursuant to the authority found at G.L. c. 130 §§ 17, 17A and 104, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is taking public comment and holding a virtual public hearing on: (1) proposed draft regulations to amend 322 CMR 6.00 to set the 2022 recreational fishing limits for Southern New England (Georges Bank) cod and Gulf of Maine cod and haddock consistent with proposed federal rules; and (2) emergency regulations at 322 CMR 6.00 that implemented the 2022 recreational fishing limits for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. Full text of the regulations may be found on [DMF's website](#) along with additional relevant background information.

Recreational Southern New England Cod (322 CMR 6.03). DMF is proposing draft regulations to establish an open season of August 1–April 30 for the recreational cod fishery in Southern New England with a five fish bag limit and a slot size limit of 22” to no greater than 28”.

Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod (322 CMR 6.03). DMF is proposing draft regulations to establish an open season of September 1–October 7, 2022 and April 1–14, 2023 for the recreational cod fishery in the Gulf of Maine with a one fish bag limit and a 22” minimum size limit.

Recreational Gulf of Maine Haddock (322 CMR 6.03). DMF is proposing draft regulations to establish an open season of May 1, 2022–February 28, 2023 and April 1–30, 2023 for the recreational haddock fishery in the Gulf of Maine with a 20 fish bag limit and a 17” minimum size limit.

Recreational Summer Flounder (322 CMR 6.22). DMF is taking public comment on emergency regulations that adopted an open season of May 21–September 29 for the recreational summer flounder fishery with a 5 fish bag limit and 16.5” minimum size limit.

Recreational Scup (322 CMR 6.27). DMF is taking public comment on emergency regulations that increased the recreational scup minimum size limit from 9” to 10”.

Recreational Black Sea Bass (322 CMR 6.28). DMF is taking public comment on emergency regulations that adopted an open season of May 21–September 4 for the recreational black sea bass fishery with a 4 fish bag limit and 16” minimum size limit.

Public Hearing and Comment Schedule

DMF will host a virtual public hearing on Monday, June 6, 2022 at 6PM to take comment on the above described draft and emergency regulations. Please register for the hearing at: <https://bit.ly/3MzCW56>. DMF will also accept written public comment through 5PM on Friday, June 10, 2022 at 6PM. Submit written comments to Director Daniel McKiernan by e-mail (marine.fish@mass.gov) or post (251

Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114). For more information visit DMF's website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.