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Marine Fisheries Advisory

THE DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES ENACTS FINAL REGULATIONS FOR ASMFC MANAGED SPECIES: BLACK SEA BASS, SCUP, SUMMER FLOUNDER, COASTAL SHARKS AND WEAKFISH

Marine Fisheries has finalized 2010 commercial and recreational regulations, compliant with ASMFC fishery management plans for scup, black sea bass, summer flounder, coastal sharks and weakfish. The following changes are effective for 2010:

Recreational Summer Flounder¹: The recreational summer flounder season was liberalized from 44 to 108 days. The season began on May 22, 2010 and will close September 6, 2010. Minimum size and bag limit remains unchanged at 18 ½” and 5 fish per angler.

Recreational Black Sea Bass²: ASMFC liberalized the previously proposed 2010 recreational black sea bass season in May. The open season for recreational black sea bass is now May 22 through October 11 and November 1 through December 31. It shall be unlawful for recreational fishers to catch and retain black sea bass from October 12 through October 31 and January 1 through May 21.

Recreational Scup³: The for-hire bonus season will be 35 consecutive days, running from May 15, 2010 to June 18, 2010. The bag limit for the bonus season is 40 fish. Rules governing minimum sizes remain unchanged: anglers aboard for-hire vessels are subject to an 11” scup minimum size while anglers aboard private vessels and from shore are subject to a 10.5” minimum size. The bag limits are for all anglers (except those participating in the for-hire bonus season) is 10 fish per angler (unchanged), and private vessels with six five or more persons aboard are limited to 50 scup. The for-hire scup season will be closed from September 27 through May 14.

Commercial Scup⁴: The commercial scup quota set-aside for the weir fishery was increased from 177,000 to 225,000 pounds commensurate with the increase in the overall 2010 Massachusetts summer period commercial quota.

Recreational and Commercial Weakfish: The recreational weakfish bag-limit has been reduced from 6-fish to 1-fish per angler. A commercial weakfish trip limit has been enacted to constrain

the daily commercial catch to 100 lbs. per vessel. These changes are pursuant to adjustments made by ASMFC to the weakfish fishery management plan.

Coastal Sharks⁵: All dealers who purchase coastal sharks from commercial fishermen are required to be authorized and permitted as federal shark dealers.

Contact *Marine Fisheries* for details at 617 626-1520 or visit the website at:
www.mass.gov/marinefisheries

Table 1: 2010 Recreational Fluke Regulations¹

| Season | Possession Limit | Size |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| January 1 – May 21 | CLOSED SEASON | CLOSED SEASON |
| May 22 – September 6 | 5 per angler per day | 18.5 inches |
| September 7 – December 31 | CLOSED SEASON | CLOSED SEASON |

Table 2: Period I & Period II 2010 Commercial Fluke Regulations

| Season (quota dependent) | Gear Type | Possession Limit | Size |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| January 1 – January 31 | All | CLOSED SEASON | CLOSED SEASON |
| February 1 – 25% of Annual Quota Filled | Trawl | 500 lbs | 14 inches |
| Between 25% - 30% of Annual Quota Filled | Trawl | 100 lbs | 14 inches |
| April 23 – June 9 | All | 100 lbs | 14 inches |
| June 10 through December 31 | Trawl | 300 lbs | 14 inches |
| June 10 through December 31 | Hook and Line | 200 lbs | 14 inches |

Table 3: 2010 Recreational Black Sea Bass Regulations²

| Season | Possession Limit | Size |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| January 1 – May 21 | CLOSED SEASON | CLOSED SEASON |
| May 22 – October 11 | 20 per angler per day | 12.5 inches |
| October 12 – October 31 | CLOSED SEASON | CLOSED SEASON |
| November 1 – December 31 | 20 per angler per day | 12.5 inches |

Table 4: 2010 Commercial Black Sea Bass Regulations

| Season (quota dependent) | Gear Type | Possession Limit | Open Days | Size |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Jan 1 – April 31 | All authorized gear types | 100 lbs | All | 12 inches |
| May 1 – May 24 | Weir and pot | 500 lbs | Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday | 12 inches |
| May 1 – May 24 | All other authorized gear types | 200 lbs | Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday | 12 inches |
| May 25 – July 31 | All authorized gear types | 0 lbs | CLOSED SEASON | 12 inches |
| Aug 1 – Dec 31 | All authorized gear types | To Be Established by Director | To Be Established by Director | 12 inches |

Table 5: 2010 Recreational Scup Regulations³

| Recreational Sector | Minimum Size | Open Season | Possession Limit |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Private from vessel or from shore (<6 anglers) | 10.5 inches | May 24 – September 26 | 10 per day per angler |
| Private from vessel (>6 anglers) | 10.5 inches | May 24 – September 26 | 50 per day per vessel |
| For-Hire Bonus | 11 inches | May 15 – June 18 | 40 per day per angler |
| For-Hire | 11 inches | June 19 – September 26 | 10 per day per angler |

Table 6: 2010 Commercial Scup Regulations⁴

| Season (quota dependent) | Gear Type | Possession Limit | Quota | Landing Days | Minimum Size |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| April 23 – June 9 | Trawl | 400 lbs | N/A | All | 9 inches |
| June 10 – Quota Filled | Trawl | 400 lbs | N/A | Sunday - Thursday | 9 inches |
| N/A | Fish Weir | N/A | 225,000 lbs | N/A | 9 inches |
| May 1 – May 31 | All Other Gear Type | 200 lbs | N/A | Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday | 9 inches 9 inches |
| August 1 – Quota | All Other Gear Type | 400 lbs | N/A | Monday - Thursday | 9 inches |

Coastal sharks species ⁵:

| Common Name | Species |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Atlantic Sharpnose | <i>Rhizoprionodon terraenovae</i> |
| Blacknose | <i>Carcharhinus acronotus</i> |
| Blacktip | <i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i> |
| Blue | <i>Prionace glauca</i> |
| Bonnethead | <i>Sphyrna tiburo</i> |
| Bull | <i>Carcharhinus leucas</i> |
| Common Thresher | <i>Alopias vulpinus</i> |
| Finetooth | <i>Carcharhinus isodon</i> |
| Great Hammerhead | <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> |
| Lemon | <i>Negaprion brevirostris</i> |
| Nurse | <i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i> |
| Oceanic Whitetip | <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> |
| Porbeagle | <i>Lamna nasus</i> |
| Scalloped Hammerhead | <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> |
| Shortfin Mako | <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> |
| Smooth Dogfish | <i>Mustelus canis</i> |
| Smooth Hammerhead | <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i> |
| Spinner | <i>Carcharhinus brevipinna</i> |
| Tiger | <i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i> |