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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

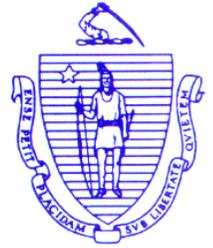
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April 15, 2015

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Pilot Program:

Summertime Weekly Aggregate Scup Trip Limits for Draggers

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) will continue its experimental fishery pilot program allowing trawlers to land a weekly aggregate limit of scup. This weekly aggregate limit is equivalent to the daily trip limit multiplied by the number of open fishing days. The pilot program is designed to provide flexibility to reduce the regulatory discarding of scup by draggers caused by the occasional large single tow resulting in catches that exceed the existing 800 pound daily trip limit. To participate in this pilot program, a fisherman must hold a Massachusetts Coastal Access Permit endorsement and scup permit endorsement and report through federal vessel trip reports (VTR). The authorized weekly limits for participants are as follows:

- During the squid fishery (May 1 – June 9) participating draggers may land scup 7-days per week, provided their weekly landings do not exceed 5,600 pounds.
- During the summertime mixed trawl fishery (June 10 – September 3) participating draggers may land scup Sunday through Thursday, provided their weekly landings do not exceed 4,000 pounds.
- During the fall mixed trawl fishery (September 6 – October 31) participating draggers may land scup 7-days per week, provided their weekly landings do not exceed 5,600 pounds.

For reporting and compliance purposes, a week is considered Sunday through Saturday and the weekly landing limit will be enforced through dealer records and Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs). Those draggers who do not participate in the pilot program may lawfully fish retain and land scup in accordance with the open fishing days and daily trip limits provided at [322 CMR 6.28\(2\)\(b\)\(3\)](#).

To Obtain an LOA to Participate in Pilot Program:

Additionally, the permit holder must obtain a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from *Marine Fisheries*. To obtain this LOA send a request via fax or e-mail to the attention of Jared Silva (fax: 617 626-1509 or email: jared.silva@state.ma.us). All requests must provide the following information:

- Name of Permit Holder
- Permit Holder Address
- Permitted Vessel Name
- Permitted Vessel Length
- Permitted Vessel Documentation Number
- Six-Digit DMF Permit Identification Number

For more information regarding the management of scup in Massachusetts, please visit our [website](#).