

322 CMR 6.03 Regulated Multi-species Groundfish

(2) Minimum Sizes. It is unlawful to land or possess multispecies groundfish of a total length less than the following:

(a) Commercial Fishing.

1. Cod: 19 inches;
2. Dabs: 12 inches;
3. Haddock: 16 inches;
4. Pollock: 19 inches;
5. Yellowtail flounder: 12 inches;
6. Halibut: 41 inches;
7. Monkfish: 17 inches in total length or monkfish tails less than 11 inches in total length;
8. Windowpane Flounder: 12 inches;
9. Winter Flounder: 12 inches;
10. Witch Flounder: 13 inches;
11. Redfish: seven inches.

(b) Recreational Fishing.

1. Cod:
 - a. **21** ~~23~~ inches in the Southern New England Groundfish Management Area;
 - b. **21 inches in the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area**
2. Dabs: 14 inches;
3. Haddock:
 - a. 17 inches in the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area;
 - b. 18 inches in the Southern New England Groundfish Management Area.
4. Yellowtail flounder: 13 inches;
5. Halibut: 41 inches;
6. Windowpane Flounder: 12 inches;
7. Winter Flounder: 12 inches;

(4) Recreational Fishery Cod Limit.

(a) Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area. **During the periods of September 15–September 30 and April 15–April 30, it shall be unlawful for a recreational fisherman to possess or land more than one cod per calendar day taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area. ~~Year-round it~~** During the periods of May 1–September 14 and October 1–April 14, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess or land any cod taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.

(b) Southern New England Groundfish Management Area. It shall be unlawful for recreational fishermen to possess more than ten cod per person, per day **taken from the Southern New England Groundfish Management Area**.

(c) Exceptions. Customers aboard for-hire vessels fishing in federal waters may possess and land cod taken from ~~the Southern New England Groundfish Management Area~~ federal waters in compliance with federal regulations.

(12) Haddock Fishery Limits.

(a) Recreational Fishery in Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area. From April 15 to the last day of February, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess or land more than 15 haddock per calendar day taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.

(b) Exceptions. Customers aboard for-hire vessels fishing in federal waters may possess and land haddock in compliance with federal regulations.

~~1. Private Angler. It is unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess or land more than 12 haddock per calendar day.~~

~~2. For Hire.~~

~~a. Closed Season. From March 1st — April 14th and September 17th through October 31st, it is unlawful for a recreational fisherman on board a for-hire vessel to possess or land any haddock.~~

~~b. Open Season. From January 1st through February 28th, April 15th through September 16th and November 1st through December 31st, it is unlawful for any recreational fisherman on board a for-hire vessel to possess or land more than 12 haddock per calendar day.~~

~~3. Exceptions. Customers aboard for-hire vessels fishing in federal waters may possess and land haddock in compliance with federal regulations.~~

6.27: Scup Fishery Management

(3) Recreational Fishery Regulations

(a) Minimum Size. It is unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess scup less than nine inches in total length.

(b) Possession and Landing Limits. It shall be unlawful for any recreational angler to possess or land more than 30 scup per calendar day. If there are six or more recreational anglers onboard any vessel, the aggregate number of scup possessed by all anglers onboard the vessel shall not exceed 150 fish.

(c) Exemptions for For-Hire Vessels. For-hire vessels carrying patrons are provided the following exemptions to the possession and landing limits set forth at 322 CMR 6.27(3)(b):

1. Bonus Season. During the period of May 1st – June 30th, any recreational angler fishing as a patron onboard a for-hire vessel may retain up to 50 scup per calendar day.

2. Vessel Limit. The vessel limit of 150 scup per calendar day shall not apply.

~~(b) Seasonal Possession and Landing Limits for Recreational Fishermen~~

~~1. Recreational Fishermen Fishing Aboard Private (Not For-Hire Vessels) or Fishing From Shore:~~

~~a. Closed Season: From January 1st through April 30th, it is unlawful for a recreational fisherman to possess or land any scup.~~

~~b. Open Season:~~

~~1. Fisherman Limit: From May 1st through December 31st, it is unlawful for a recreational fisherman to possess or land in excess of 30 scup per calendar day.~~

~~2. Vessel Limit: From May 1st through December 31st, it is unlawful for a private vessels with six or more recreational fishermen aboard to possess or land more than 150 scup per calendar day.~~

~~2. For-Hire Vessels:~~

~~a. Closed Season. From January 1st through April 30th, it is unlawful for a recreational fisherman aboard for hire vessels to possess or land any scup.~~

~~b. Bonus Fishing Season. From May 1st through June 30th, it is unlawful for a recreational fisherman aboard for hire vessels to possess or land in excess of 45 scup per calendar day.~~

~~c. Open Season. From July 1st through December 31st, it is unlawful for a recreational fisherman aboard for hire vessels to possess or land in excess of 30 scup per calendar day.~~

6.28: Black Sea Bass Fishery Management

(3) Recreational Fishery Regulations

(a) Minimum Size. It shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess black sea bass less than 15 inches in total length not including the tail tendril.

(b) Seasonal Possession Restrictions.

1. Closed Season. ~~From September 13 – May 18,~~ **During the period of September 9th – May 17th,** it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess or land any quantity of black sea bass.

2. Open Fishing Season. ~~From May 19 – September 12,~~ **During the period of May 18th – September 8th,** it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess or land more than 5 black sea bass per calendar day.