



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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November 29, 2022

### Marine Fisheries Advisory

## **Public Comment Sought on Proposed Increase to 2023 Summer Flounder Period I Commercial Trip Limit**

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is proposing to increase the commercial summer flounder trip limit for the 2023 Period I fishery (January 1–April 22) from 3,000 pounds per trip to 10,000 pounds per trip. This will match the trip limit currently in effect through the end of this calendar year thereby allowing the wintertime offshore fishery to continue to target summer flounder at a consistent trip limit into next year. Additionally, it will better allow the fishery to access its available quota allocation enhancing the likelihood the state utilizes its 2023 annual summer flounder quota to the benefit of the seafood industry and local seafood consumers.

The Period I commercial summer flounder fishery is allocated 30% of the state's annual quota. For 2023, the state's anticipated annual quota is 1.36-million pounds with the Period I fishery then receiving approximately 400,000 pounds. This fishery occurs principally offshore in federal waters. This proposed elevated trip limit may encourage participation in this offshore fishery, encourage vessels fishing offshore to land their catch in Massachusetts, and better align the landing limit with overhead associated with having to steam to offshore fishing grounds.

DMF is accepting public comment on this proposed adjustment through 5PM on Wednesday, December 14, 2022. Written comment may be submitted to Director Daniel McKiernan by e-mail to [marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov). The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission will consider adopting this trip limit at its December 20, 2022 virtual business meeting.

For more information on the management of commercial fisheries in Massachusetts, please visit our website: [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)