

Emergency Regulations to Set 2023 Recreational Black Sea Bass and Scup Fishing Limits – Redline Text

6.27: Scup Fishery Management

(3) Recreational Fishery Regulations.

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

1. 10.5 inches in total length when fishing from a vessel.

2. Nine and one-half inches total length when fishing from shore.

(b) Possession and Landing Limits. **From May 1 – October 31, it ~~is~~** shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess or land more than 30 scup per day. If there are six or more recreational fishermen onboard any vessel, the aggregate number of scup possessed by all recreational fishermen 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 1 through June 30, any recreational fisherman fishing as a patron onboard a for-hire vessel may retain up to 40 ~~50~~ scup per day.

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

(d) Closed Season. **During the period of January 1 – April 30, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess, or land any scup.**

6.28: Black Sea Bass Fishery Management

(3) Recreational Fishery Regulations.

(a) Minimum Size. It shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess, or land black sea bass measuring less than **16.5** ~~16~~ inches in total length not including the tail tendril.

(b) Open Season. During the period of **May 20 through September 7** ~~May 21 through September 4~~, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess, or land more than four black sea bass per day.

(c) Closed Season. During the period of **September 8 through May 19**, ~~September 5 through May 20~~, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess, or land any black sea bass.