



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

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ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board Approves State & Regional Management Proposals for 2014 Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Recreational Fisheries

Arlington, VA – The Commission’s Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved a combination of state and regional proposals for the 2014 summer flounder recreational fishery (see Table 1) and state proposals for the 2014 black sea bass recreational fishery in accordance with Addendum XXV to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan.

Table 1. Proposed 2014 Summer Flounder State Recreational Measures*

STATE	MINIMUM SIZE (INCHES)	POSSESSION LIMIT (NO. OF FISH)	SEASON LENGTH (DAYS)	SEASON
MASSACHUSETTS	16	5	132	May 22 – September 30
RHODE ISLAND	18	8	245	May 1 – December 31
CONNECTICUT	18	5	128	May 17 – September 21
CT Designated Shore Sites	16	5	128	May 17 – September 21
NEW YORK	18	5	128	To be determined
NEW JERSEY	18	5	128	To be determined
DELAWARE	16	4	365	January 1 – December 31
MARYLAND	16	4	365	January 1 – December 31
VIRGINIA	16	4	365	January 1 – December 31
NORTH CAROLINA	15	6	365	January 1 – December 31

*States are undergoing their administrative processes to adopt regulations. Once regulations are finalized, they will be available on the State and Commission websites.

For the summer flounder fishery, the Board approved regional management measures for two regions (1) Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, including the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, and (2) Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. Adopted regulations for the first region (DE-VA) include a 16-inch minimum size limit, 4 fish bag limit, and a year-round season, while the second region’s (CT-NJ) regulations include an 18-inch minimum size, 5 fish bag limit, and 128 day open season with not more than 45 days open from May 1 – June 30. Further, states have the option to develop a program that allows

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

for a 16-inch minimum size limit at state designated sites offering only shore-based fishing access. For North Carolina, the Board approved the state's maintenance of 2013 regulations for the 2014 fishery. The overall intent of the regional management measures for the summer flounder recreational fishery is to provide more equity in recreational harvest opportunities along the coast.

The Board also approved a request from Massachusetts and Rhode Island to split its region into individual state regions to account for the significantly different recreational fisheries of the two states. Both states will maintain their 2013 regulations for the 2014 fishery so that the effect of these measures, when combined with the other regions' measures, will constrain the coastwide harvest to the recreational harvest limit of 7.01 million pounds.

For black sea bass, the Board approved the methodologies used by the states of Massachusetts through New Jersey to establish their minimum size, bag limits, and season lengths to achieve a 7% reduction in the 2014 recreational harvest levels from the 2013 harvest level. The 7% reduction is in response to harvest overages that occurred in 2013. States will be finalizing their regulations over the next couple of weeks. The Board also agreed to a send letter to NOAA Fisheries requesting a review of the 2013 final Marine Recreational Information Program black sea bass harvest numbers when determining the final rule for 2014 measures.

For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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