



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

January 21, 2016

TO: Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board
FROM: Kirby Rootes-Murdy, FMP Coordinator
SUBJECT: 2016 Commercial Scup and Black Sea Bass Quotas

This memo indicates state shares for the 2016 summer period commercial scup fishery and for state shares of the 2016 black sea bass commercial fishery. As a reminder, the scup Winter II possession limit for 2016 can be increased up to 18,000 lb due to rollover of unused quota.

Scup

The scup commercial quota for 2016 is 20.46 million lb. The 2016 specifications for Scup are lower compared to 2015 levels due to a slight decrease in spawning stock biomass (SSB) as projected by the 2015 benchmark stock assessment.

Scup Winter I Possession Limit (January-April)

The Winter I quota is 9,232,987 lb. The Federal and state possession limit in Winter I is 50,000 lb per trip for Scup. When 80% of quota is reached, the possession limit will drop to 1,000 lb per trip.

Summer Period

The Summer period quota is 7,972,176 lb. State shares are listed in Table 1. The 2015 landings in Table 1 are from the NMFS quota monitoring report as of October 31, 2015, and are not final. Shares may be adjusted for overages after NMFS publishes the 2014 final landings in the summer of 2015, any overages would be deducted from a state's 2015 quota.

Winter II

The Winter II quota is 3,262,554 lb. The initial Winter II possession limit is 12,000 lb. The Winter II possession limit-to-rollover amount ratios will be 1,500 lb per 500,000 lb of unused Winter I period quota transferred to the Winter II period.

Black Sea Bass

The black sea bass commercial quota for 2016 will increase relative to the 2015 quota of 2.21 million pounds to 2.70 million lbs based on updated catch and survey information. There was a reduction to the initial 2016 commercial quota due to a coastwide quota overage of 8,896 lbs in 2014 fishing year. Following the procedures outlined in Addendum XX, state overages were deducted from their 2016 quota proportional to the 2014 coastwide overage. Table 2 indicates 2016 state-by-state commercial quotas. The 2015 landings are from the NMFS quota monitoring report (landings as of December 26th) and are not final. Shares may be adjusted for overages after NMFS publishes the final landings in the summer of 2016.

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Table 1. 2015 Scup Commercial Summer Period State-by-State Quotas (lb)

State	Share	2015 ASMFC Summer Period Quota	2015 Landings ** (10/31/2015)	2016 ASMFC Quota
ME	0.00121	10,007	0	9,646
MA	0.215853	1,785,122	922,141	1,720,818
RI	0.561894	4,646,910	4,844,618	4,479,518
CT	0.031537	260,814	271,518	251,418
NY	0.158232	1,308,592	1,507,266	1,261,453
NJ	0.029164	241,189	353,571	232,501
MD	0.000119	984	17,934	949
VA	0.00165	13,646	56,812	13,154
NC	0.000249	2,059	21,844	1,985
Total	0.999908	8,269,322	7,995,706	7,972,176

**These landings are from the NMFS quota monitoring report and are not final. Shares may be adjusted for overages after NMFS publishes the 2015 final landings in the summer of 2016. Landings estimates are from the NOAA Fisheries Quota Monitoring Report: <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/monitoring/scup.html>

Table 2. 2015 Black Sea Bass Commercial State-by-State Quotas (lb)

State	% Allocation	2015 Landings as of 12/26/2015*	2015 ASMFC Initial Quota	2015 Transfers as of 12/31/2015	2015 Quota after Transfers	Initial 2016 Quota
ME	0.005	0	11,065			13,559
NH	0.005	0	11,065			13,559
MA	0.13	347,945	287,680			352,525
RI	0.11	238,586	243,422			297,598
CT	0.01	23,727	22,129			26,520
NY	0.07	150,396	154,905			187,986
NJ	0.2	471,332	442,585	342	442,927	536,558
DE	0.05	103,825	110,646			135,591
MD	0.11	230,018	243,422			298,289
VA	0.2	414,057	442,585	167	442,752	542,375
NC**	0.11	238,833	243,422	-509	242,913	298,305
Total	100%	2,218,719	2,212,923			2,702,867

*Landings are from the NOAA Fisheries Quota Monitoring Report and are not final. ** Landings from North Carolina are reported from the state due to discrepancies in post-stratification of landings at Cape Hatteras. 2016 shares may be adjusted for overages after NMFS publishes the final landings in the summer of 2016: <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/monitoring/blackseabass.html>