



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Atlantic Bluefish 2016-2018 CORRECTED Commercial Quotas and Recreational Harvest Limits

Effective Date: August 8, 2016

The previous bulletin for this action contained an error for the recreational harvest limit. This bulletin corrects that error.

2016-2018* Atlantic Bluefish Specifications, in millions of pounds.

	2016	2017	2018
Annual Catch Limit (ACL)	19.45	20.64	21.81
Commercial Quota	4.88	6.07	7.24
Recreational Harvest Limit	11.58	11.58	11.58

** Note: The quotas and limits shown for 2017 and 2018 are estimates incorporating a sector quota transfer, using the 2015 recreational catch as a projection applied to the 2017 and 2018 TALs. Updated transfer amounts will be published each year using updated catch data.*

Transfer of Recreational Allowable Landings to Commercial Fishery

The Fishery Management Plan (FMP) requires that 17 percent of the ACL be allocated to the commercial fishery, with the remaining 83 percent allocated to the recreational fishery. The FMP allows, under certain conditions, a transfer of allowable landings from the recreational to the commercial fishery. Using these revised final recreational landings from 2015 to project 2016 catch results in an estimated 2016 recreational harvest that allows a transfer of quota from the recreational sector to the commercial fishery. Moving forward, if recreational catch in future years is similar to 2015, it will be possible to transfer recreational quota to the commercial fishery in 2017 and 2018. We will announce updated transfers and revised quotas for the 2017 and 2018 seasons.

Commercial Atlantic Bluefish State Quotas

We are also announcing the 2016-2018 commercial bluefish state quotas. These state quotas have been adjusted to include state quota transfer requests from Virginia to Rhode Island and

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New York, and from Florida to New York. The 2017 and 2018 state quotas may change if the overall commercial quota changes as a result of an updated sector quota transfer. See Table page 2.

2016-2018 State-By-State Commercial Atlantic Bluefish Quotas, in pounds

State	FMP Percent share	2016 initial quota	2016 quota transfer	Final 2016 quota	2017 initial quota	2018 initial quota
ME	0.6685	32,655		32,655	40,584	48,424
NH	0.4145	20,247		20,247	25,164	30,025
MA	6.7167	328,096		328,096	407,762	486,539
RI	6.8081	332,561	100,000	432,561	413,311	493,160
CT	1.2663	61,856		61,856	76,875	91,727
NY	10.3851	507,289	30,000	537,289	630,466	752,268
NJ	14.8162	723,739		723,739	899,472	1,073,245
DE	1.8782	91,746		91,746	114,023	136,052
MD	3.0018	146,631		146,631	182,235	217,442
VA	11.8795	580,287	-80,000	500,287	721,189	860,518
NC	32.0608	1,566,100		1,566,100	1,946,369	2,322,397
SC	0.0352	1,719		1,719	2,137	2,550
GA	0.0095	464		464	577	688
FL	10.0597	491,394	-50,000	441,394	610,711	728,697
Total	100.0001	4,884,780		4,884,780	6,070,867	7,243,726

Recreational Fishing Measures

We are maintaining the status quo daily recreational possession limit of up to 15 fish per person and a recreational season open all year.