



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Scup Incidental Catch Limit Increase and Update to the Summer Flounder Mesh Regulations

Effective Date: Upon Publication in the Federal Register

We have approved two changes to the commercial regulations for summer flounder and scup.

We are raising the **incidental limit** for vessels using mesh smaller than **5 inches** to **1,000 lb** for the **November-April** season. Vessels using mesh larger than 5 inches may continue to land up to the targeted commercial fishery possession limit according to the applicable Federal and state rules.

The turtle excluding device (TED) regulations require summer flounder trawls fishing in the sea turtle protection area to have a TED extension with webbing no larger than 3.5 inches. We are updating the language in the summer flounder minimum mesh size regulations to specify that the summer flounder minimum mesh size restrictions do not apply to extensions needed to comply with the TED regulations.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.