



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For information contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
978-281-9315

www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov
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Northeast Skate Fishery

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Framework 3 and 2016-2017 Management Measures

Effective date: August 17, 2016

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has approved and implemented measures in Framework Adjustment 3 to the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan. Framework 3 sets specifications for the 2016 and 2017 fishing years (see Tables 1 and 2 below). This action also implements a new seasonal allocation for the skate wing fishery and grants the Regional Administrator authority to close the wing fishery in-season when warranted (additional information on back).

Table 1. Total Allowable Landings for Fishing Years 2016-2017

Total Allowable Landings (TAL)		Metric tons (mt)
Skate Wing Fishery	Season 1 (May 1 - Aug 31)	4,772
	Season 2 (Sept 1 - Apr 30)	3,600
Skate Bait Fishery	Season 1 (May 1 - Jul 31)	1,299
	Season 2 (Aug 1 - Oct 31)	1,565
	Season 3 (Nov 1 - Apr 30)	1,354

Table 2. Possession Limits for Fishing Years 2016 and 2017

Skate Possession Limits*		Trip Limits (pounds)		
		Skate Wings	Whole Skates	Whole Skate w/Bait LOA
NE Multispecies, Scallop, or Monkfish Day-At-Sea (DAS)	Season 1 (May 1 - Aug 31)	2,600 lb	5,902 lb	25,000 lb
	Season 2 (Sept 1 - Apr 30)	4,100 lb	9,306 lb	
NE Multispecies B DAS	May 1 - Apr 30	220 lb	500 lb	500 lb
Non-DAS	May 1 - Apr 30	500 lb	1,135 lb	1,135 lb

*Possession limits may be modified in-season in order to prevent catch from exceeding quotas.

Seasonal Allocation of the Skate Wing Fishery TAL:

- The annual skate wing TAL is now divided into Season 1 (May 1 through August 31) and Season 2 (September 1 through April 30) in alignment with the seasonal possession limits (see front page).
- 57 percent of the skate wing TAL is allocated to a Season 1 quota. The remainder of the TAL, including any leftover quota from Season 1, will be available in Season 2.
- If 85% of the Season 1 quota is projected to be landed before August 17, the Regional Administrator is required to reduce the skate wing possession limit to the incidental level 500 lb wing weight (1,135 lb whole weight) until September 1.
- If 85% of the Season 1 quota is projected to be landed between August 18 and August 31, the Regional Administrator may or may not implement the incidental skate wing possession limit, depending on whether the Season 1 quota is expected to be exceeded, and in consideration of other factors, such as how many fishing days remain before August 31. These same measures apply to the entirety of Season 2.

Additional Information

- A skate fishery information sheet, species identification guides, and other information are available on the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office website at:

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/skate/index.html>

- For questions contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 or your local Port Agent.
- For assistance with reporting please contact your local Port Agent or the dealer reporting help desk at (978) 281-9212 or reporting.ne@noaa.gov.

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