



Northeast Region Bulletin

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SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, AND BLACK SEA BASS FISHERIES

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

2013 RECREATIONAL HARVEST MEASURES & 2013 BLACK SEA BASS SPECIFICATIONS INCREASE

Effective date: June 20, 2013

We have approved the final 2013 minimum fish size, angler possession limits, and fishing season rules for the summer flounder (fluke), scup (porgies), and black sea bass (sea bass) recreational fisheries. States have already put their rules in place for the season. In addition, we have implemented an increase in the 2013 and 2014 black sea bass commercial quota and recreational harvest limit.

Based on a recommendation from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, we have approved an **increase to the overall catch limit for black sea bass**. This results in a new recreational harvest limit of 2.26 million lb and a new commercial quota of 2.17 million lb. Please see Table 1, below, for more detail.

This rule maintains conservation equivalency for the **summer flounder** fishery. Conservation equivalency means that we have waived the Federal recreational bag limit, minimum fish size, and fishing season, and vessel owners are subject only to regulations in their state. Please see Table 2, below, for the 2013 state-by-state recreational management measures.

This rule also maintains the year-round open season for recreational **scup** fishing. The minimum fish size is now 10 inches, and the possession limit is 30 scup per person. Please keep in mind that, if the Federal minimum size, possession limit, and/or season differ from the regulations for the state in which you will be landing, you must follow the more restrictive regulations.

For the 2013 **black sea bass** recreational fishery, we have implemented a minimum fish size of 12.5 inches, a possession limit of 20 black sea bass per person, and open seasons of May 19-October 14 and November 1-December 31. Please keep in mind that, if the Federal minimum size, possession limit, and/or season differ from the regulations for the state in which you will be landing, you must follow the more restrictive regulations.

If you have additional questions after reading this letter, please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

Table 1: 2013-2014 Black Sea Bass Catch Limits

	Original 2013 Specifications	New Specifications for 2013 and 2014 (million lb)
	million lb	million lb
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	4.50	5.50
Commercial Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Annual Catch Target (ACT)	2.13	2.60
Commercial Quota	1.78	2.17
Recreational ACL & ACT	2.37	2.90
Recreational Harvest Limit	1.85	2.26

Table 2: 2013 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Approved State-by-State Conservation Equivalent Recreational Measures for Summer Flounder

State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
Massachusetts	16	5 fish	May 22-September 30
Rhode Island	18	8 fish	May 1-December 31
Connecticut*	17.5	5 fish	May 15-October 31
*At 42 designated Shore sites	16		
New York	19	4 fish	May 1-September 29
New Jersey	17.5	5 fish	May 18-September 16
Delaware	17	4 fish	All year
Maryland	16	4 fish	March 28-December 31
PRFC	16	4 fish	All year
Virginia	16	4 fish	All year
North Carolina	15	6 fish	All Year

Table 3: 2013 Federal Recreational Measures for Scup and Black Sea Bass

Fishery	Minimum Size (Inches)	Possession Limit	Fishing Season
Scup	10	30 fish	January 1-December 31
Black Sea Bass	12.5	20 fish	May 19-October 14; November 1-December 31

Table 4: 2013 State-by-State Recreational Measures for Black Sea Bass

State of landing	Minimum Size (Inches)	Possession Limit	Fishing Season
Massachusetts (Private & For-Hire)	14	4 fish	May 11-October 31
Massachusetts (For-Hire with Letter of Authorization from MA DMF)	14	10	May 11-June 14
		20	July 1-August 11 September 1-October 10
Rhode Island	13	3 fish	June 15-August 31
		7 fish	September 1-December 31
Connecticut (Private & Shore)	13	3 fish	June 15-August 31
		8 fish	September 1-December 31
New York	13	8 fish	July 10-December 31
New Jersey	12.5	15 fish	January 1-February 28
		20 fish	May 19-August 8; September 27-October 14; November 1-December 31
Delaware	12.5	15 fish	January 1-February 28
		20 fish	May 19-October 14; November 1-December 31
Maryland	12.5	15 fish	January 1-February 28
		20 fish	May 19-October 14; November 1-December 31
Virginia	12.5	15 fish	January 1-February 28
		20 fish	May 19-October 14; November 1-December 31
North Carolina (North of 35°15'N (Cape Hatterass))	12.5	15 fish	January 1-February 28
		20 fish	May 19-October 14; November 1-December 31