



Northeast Region Bulletin

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SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, AND BLACK SEA BASS

RECREATIONAL FISHERY

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

2012 RECREATIONAL HARVEST MEASURES

Effective date: Friday, May 18, 2012

We have approved the final 2012 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 rules in place for the season.

This rule implements the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's recommended start date for the recreational black sea bass fishery of May 19, 2012. This rule also implements conservation equivalency for the summer flounder fishery, and a year-round scup season.

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.

See the tables below for information on what size fish you may keep, how many fish you may keep per day, and the days and months fishing is allowed.

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

Table 1: 2012 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	5 fish	May 22-September 30
Rhode Island	18.5	8 fish	May 1-December 31
Connecticut*	18	5 fish	May 15-October 31
*At 44 designated Shore sites	16		
New York	19.5	4 fish	May 1-September 30
New Jersey	17.5	5 fish	May 5-September 28
Delaware	18	4 fish	January 1-October 23
Maryland	17	3 fish	April 14-December 16
PRFC	16.5	4 fish	All year
Virginia	16.5	4 fish	All year
North Carolina	15	6 fish	All Year

Table 2: 2012 Federal Recreational Measures for Scup and Black Sea Bass

Fishery	Minimum Size (Inches)	Possession Limit	Fishing Season
Scup	10.5	20 fish	January 1-December 31
Black Sea Bass	12.5	15 fish	January 1-February 28
	12.5	25 fish	May 19-October 14; November 1-December 31

Table 3: 2012 State-by-State Recreational Measures for Black Sea Bass

State of landing	Minimum Size (Inches)	Possession Limit	Fishing Season
Massachusetts	14	10 fish	May 11-June 24
		20 fish	June 25-October 31
Rhode Island	13	15 fish	June 15-December 31
Connecticut	13	15 fish	June 15-December 31
New York	13	15 fish	June 15-December 31
New Jersey	12.5	25 fish	May 19-September 3; September 23-October 14; November 1-December 31
Delaware	12.5	25 fish	May 22-October 14; November 1-December 31
Maryland	12.5	25 fish	May 19-October 14; November 1-December 31
Virginia	12.5	25 fish	May 19-October 14; November 1-December 31
North Carolina	12.5	25 fish	May 19-October 14; November 1-December 31