



Northeast Region Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978)281-9315

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
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Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery

Landing Allowances and Possession Limit Change

2012 Commercial Quotas and Recreational Harvest Limits for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass, Increase to the Scup Commercial Winter 1 Possession Limit from 30,000 to 50,000 lb

Effective Date: January 1, 2012

NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has implemented the 2012 summer flounder (fluke), scup (porgy), and black sea bass landing allowances for both the commercial and recreational fisheries, commonly referred to as “quotas.” The landing allowances and Annual Catch Limits, outlined below, become effective January 1, 2012.

2012 Landing allowances in pounds (lb)			
	Summer Flounder	Scup	Black Sea Bass
Commerical Quota	13,136,000	27,908,575	1,710,000
Recreational Harvest Limit	8,758,000	8,446,367	1,320,000
Annual Catch Limits in pounds (lb)			
Commercial Sector	14,002,000	31,887,000	1,980,000
Recreational Sector	11,579,000	8,994,000	2,520,000

Commercial and recreational fisheries will be closed when the landing allowances are met or exceeded. Annual Catch Limits are based on total catch, both landings and dead-discarded fish. The 2012 Annual Catch Limits will be evaluated in 2013 after all the landings and discard information is available. If total catch by sector exceeds these levels, pound-for-pound repayment of the overage will occur in subsequent fishing years. The attached tables provide more information on the commercial quota breakdown and possession limits for each species.

If the information in this letter is unclear, please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 with any questions you may have. This letter doesn’t contain all the regulations that pertain to summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass, and consequently, has no legal force or effect. A copy of the regulations can be obtained through a link to the *Federal Register* at the NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Office website: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

You may also receive permit holder letters by e-mail, including closure notices, by visiting our website and clicking on “Permit Holder Letters.”

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, Northeast Region.

Table 1. State-by-state commercial summer flounder allocations for 2012.

	Percent Share	Initial Quota	Initial Quota, Less RSA	Quota Overages (through 10/31/11) ¹	Adjusted Quota less RSA
State		lb	lb	lb	lb
ME	0.04756	6,247	6,054	0	6,054
NH	0.00046	60	59	0	59
MA	6.82046	895,936	868,226	0	868,226
RI	15.68298	2,060,116	1,996,400	0	1,996,400
CT	2.25708	296,490	287,320	0	287,320
NY	7.64699	1,004,509	973,441	50,736	922,705
NJ	16.72499	2,196,995	2,129,045	0	2,129,045
DE	0.01779	2,337	2,265	54,982	-52,717
MD	2.03910	267,856	259,572	0	259,572
VA	21.31676	2,800,170	2,713,565	0	2,713,565
NC	27.44584	3,605,286	3,493,779	0	3,493,779
Total ²	100.00	13,136,001	12,729,724	105,718	12,676,724

¹ 2011 quota overage is determined through comparison of landings for January through October 2011 plus any landings in 2010 in excess of the 2010 quota that were not previously addressed in the 2011 quota specifications, with the final 2010 quota for each state.

² Total quota is the sum of all states having allocation. A state with a negative number has an allocation of zero (0).

Table 2. Scup commercial quota allocations for 2012 and Initial Trip Limits.

	Percent Share	Annual Catch Limit	Estimated Discards	Initial Quota	Initial Quota less Overages (through 10/31/2011) ¹	Adjusted Quota less Overages and RSA	Possession Limits (Per Trip) ²
		(lb)	(lb)	(lb)		(lb)	(lb)
Winter I	45.11	14,384,226	1,593,736	12,790,489	N/A	12,589,558	50,000
Summer	38.95	12,419,987	1,376,104	11,043,883	N/A	10,870,390	N/A
Winter II	15.94	5,082,788	563,160	4,519,628	N/A	4,448,627	2,000
Total	100.0	31,887,000	3,533,000	28,354,000	N/A	27,908,575	N/A

¹ There were no applicable overages through 10/31/2011.

²The Winter I possession limit will drop to 1,000 lb upon attainment of 80 percent of that period's allocation. The Winter II possession limit may be adjusted (in association with a transfer of unused Winter I quota to the Winter II period) via notification in the *Federal Register*.

N/A=Not applicable.

Table 3. Potential Increase in 2012 Winter II Possession Limits based on the Amount of Scup Rolled over from Winter I to Winter II.

Initial Winter II Possession Limit	Rollover from Winter I to Winter II	Increase in Initial Winter II Possession Limit	Final Winter II Possession Limit after Rollover from Winter I to Winter II
lb	lb	lb	lb
2,000	0-499,999	0	2,000
2,000	500,000-999,999	1,500	3,500
2,000	1,000,000-1,499,999	3,000	5,000
2,000	1,500,000-1,999,999	4,500	6,500
2,000	2,000,000-2,500,000	6,000	8,000