



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board
FROM: Tracey Bauer and Chelsea Tuohy, FMP Coordinators
DATE: December 6, 2023
SUBJECT: 2024 Commercial Scup and Black Sea Bass Quotas

This memo indicates state shares for the 2024 scup commercial summer quota period fishery and state shares for the 2024 commercial black sea bass fishery. As a reminder, per the provisions of Addendum XXIX, the scup summer period quota is Wednesday, May 1 through Monday, September 30.

Scup

The scup commercial quota for 2024 is 21.15 million pounds. The 2024 specifications for scup represent a 51% increase from the 2023 quota level of 14.01 million pounds.

Scup Winter I Possession Limit (January-April)

The 2024 Winter I quota is 9,539,294 pounds¹. The federal and state possession limit in Winter I is 50,000 pounds per trip for Scup. When 80% of quota is reached, the possession limit will drop to 1,000 pounds per trip.

Summer Period (May-September)

The 2024 summer period quota is 8,236,655 pounds¹. Preliminary 2023 landings in Table 1 are from the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) database and are not final. 2024 state shares (Table 1) may be adjusted for overages after NOAA Fisheries publishes final 2023 landings. However, all state overages are forgiven during years when the fishing period quota is not exceeded.

Winter II (October-December)

The 2024 Winter II quota is 3,370,790 pounds¹. The initial Winter II possession limit is 12,000 pounds. The Winter II possession limit-to-rollover amount ratios will be 1,500 pounds per 500,000 pounds of unused Winter I period quota transferred to the Winter II period. The Winter II period begins Tuesday, October 1 and goes through Tuesday, December 31.

For more information, please contact Chelsea Tuohy, FMP Coordinator, at ctuohy@asmfc.org.

M23-105

¹ Pending NMFS approval

Black Sea Bass

The black sea bass commercial quota for 2024 will increase by 25% to 6.00 million pounds. Based on preliminary data there is no reduction to the initial 2024 commercial quota due to quota overages, though the 2024 quota and state shares may be adjusted later based on updated data. [Addendum XXXIII](#) sets the baseline allocations of commercial quota to states, as well as the methodology to distribute the quota based on regional biomass distribution. Table 2 indicates the 2024 state baseline allocations, regional biomass distributions, and final state commercial quotas for black sea bass.

For more information, please contact Tracey Bauer, FMP Coordinator, at tbauer@asmfc.org.

Table 1. 2023 Scup preliminary Commercial Summer Period Landings and 2024 Commercial Summer Period State Quotas (pounds).

State	Share	2023 ASMFC Summer Period Quota	2023 Transfers	Final 2023 Summer Period Quota	2023 Preliminary Landings ²	Initial 2024 Summer Period Quota ³
ME	0.00121	6,603		6,603	0	9,967
MA	0.21587	1,177,996	-351,000	826,996	547,462	1,778,071
RI	0.56195	3,066,478	-99,900	2,966,578	2,194,798	4,628,552
CT	0.03154	172,110	350,000	522,110	511,314	259,783
NY	0.15825	863,535	100,000	963,535	988,643	1,303,423
NJ	0.02917	159,160		159,160	173,646	240,236
MD	0.00012	649	1,000	1,649	1,561	980
VA	0.00165	9,005		9,005	7,894	13,592
NC	0.00025	1,359	-100	1,259	0	2,051
Total	100%	5,456,895		5,456,895	4,425,319	8,236,655

² These landings are from SAFIS and are not final. Data queried November 27, 2023.

³ The 2024 Summer Period Quota number is pending NMFS approval.

Table 2. 2024 Black Sea Bass Commercial State Quotas (pounds) under Addendum XXXIII.

State	Baseline Allocations	Regional Biomass Distribution (2021 Assessment)	Total State Allocations	State Quota Based on 2024 Coastwide Quota (6,000,000 lbs)
ME	0.25%	85%	0.40%	24,000
NH	0.25%		0.40%	24,000
MA	12.622%		15.44%	926,338
RI	10.68%		13.06%	783,825
CT	3.00%		3.67%	220,171
NY	8.00%		9.79%	587,122
NJ - N	9.709%		15%	19.81%
NJ - S	9.709%	4.09%		245,275
DE	5.00%	8.73%		523,918
MD	10.68%	15.88%		952,578
VA	19.419%	8.73%		523,918
NC	10.68%			
Total	100%	100%	100.00%	6,000,000