



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: October 4, 2024
SUBJECT: 2025 Commercial Scup and Black Sea Bass Quotas

This memo indicates 2025 state shares for the scup commercial summer period fishery and black sea bass commercial fishery. Per the provisions of Addendum XXIX, the scup summer period is Thursday, May 1 through Tuesday, September 30.

Scup

The 2025 scup commercial quota is 19.54 million pounds which is a slightly modified quota from the previously adopted 2025 catch and landings limits for scup. This change was due to a small error discovered in the projections used to set 2024-2025 specifications. Correcting the error resulted in a small increase in the projected acceptable biological catch (ABC) and overfishing limit (OFL) for 2025.

2025 Scup Periods:

Winter I Possession Limit (January-April)

The winter I quota is 8,814,300 pounds¹. The federal and state possession limit in winter I is 50,000 pounds per trip. When 80% of quota is reached, the possession limit will drop to 1,000 pounds per trip.

Summer Period (May-September)

The summer period quota is 7,610,663 pounds¹. Preliminary 2024 landings in Table 1 are from the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) database and are not final. 2025 state shares (Table 1) may be adjusted for overages after NOAA Fisheries publishes final 2024 landings. However, all state overages are forgiven during years when the fishing period quota is not exceeded.

Winter II (October-December)

The winter II quota is 3,114,608 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 Wednesday, October 1 and goes through Wednesday, December 31.

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

¹ Pending NMFS approval

Black Sea Bass

The 2025 black sea bass commercial quota will remain status quo from 2024 at 6 million pounds, as approved by the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board in August 2024. The final rule for federal specifications will be determined by NOAA Fisheries, where NOAA will reconcile the differences between the black sea bass specifications approved by the Commission and recommended by Council. The proposed rule is expected to be published in October 2024. If the final rule is different than the specifications approved by the Board, the Board could reconsider its action in order to have consistent quotas between state and federal waters.

Based on preliminary data there is no reduction to the initial 2025 commercial quota due to quota overages, though the 2025 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. Addendum XXXIII requires that the most recent black sea bass management track assessment inform the regional biomass distribution. The regional biomass distribution for black sea bass had previously been 85% in the northern region and 15% in the southern region, based on the 2021 management track assessment. The 2025 commercial quota state-by-state allocations now use the regional biomass distribution from the 2024 management track, which was 52% in the northern region and 48% in the southern region.

Table 2 indicates the 2025 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. 2024 Scup Preliminary Commercial Summer Period Landings and 2025 Commercial Summer Period State Quotas (pounds).

State	Share	2024 ASMFC Summer Period Quota	2024 Transfers	Final 2024 Summer Period Quota	2024 Preliminary Landings ²	Initial 2025 Summer Period Quota ³
ME	0.1210%	9,967	-	9,967	-	9,210
MA	21.5853%	1,778,071	-400,000	1,378,071	563,089	1,642,936
RI	56.1894%	4,628,552	-	4,628,552	2,121,317	4,276,779
CT	3.1537%	259,783	400,000	659,783	392,807	240,040
NY	15.8232%	1,303,423	-	1,303,423	1,042,770	1,204,362
NJ	2.9164%	240,236	-	240,236	128,207	221,978
MD	0.0119%	980	-	980	-	906
VA	0.1650%	13,592	-	13,592	913	12,559
NC	0.0249%	2,051	-	2,051	1,062	1,895
Total	100%	8,236,655	-	8,236,655	4,250,165	7,610,663

² These landings are from SAFIS and are not final. Data queried October 4, 2024.

³ The 2024 summer period quota number is pending NMFS approval.

Table 2. 2025 Black Sea Bass Commercial State Quotas (pounds) under Addendum XXXIII.

State	Baseline Allocations	Regional Biomass Distribution (2024 Assessment)	Total State Allocations	State Quota Based on 2025 Coastwide Quota (6,000,000 lbs)
ME	0.25%	52%	0.317%	19,050
NH	0.25%		0.317%	19,050
MA	12.622%		13.12%	787,216
RI	10.68%		11.10%	666,106
CT	3.00%		3.12%	187,104
NY	8.00%		8.32%	498,945
NJ - N	9.709%		19.47%	1,168,455
NJ - S	9.709%	48%	4.83%	289,878
DE	5.00%		10.32%	619,194
MD	10.68%		18.76%	1,125,807
VA	19.419%		10.32%	619,194
NC	10.68%			
Total	100%	100%	100.00%	6,000,000