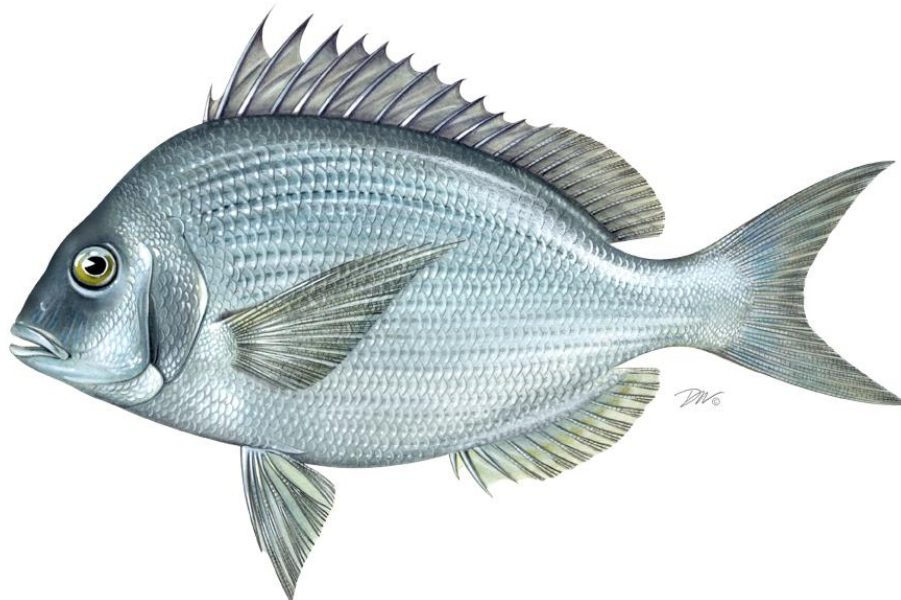


**ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**REVIEW OF THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**FOR SCUP**  
*(Stenotomus chrysops)*

**2024 FISHING YEAR**



Prepared by the Plan Review Team

**Approved August 13, 2025**



*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

## 2024 Review of the ASMFC Fishery Management Plan for Scup

### I. Status of the Fishery Management Plan

States with a declared interest in the Scup Fishery Management Plan (FMP) are Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC or Commission) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board (Board) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC or Council) guide plan development. The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Technical Committee (TC) addresses technical issues. Industry advice is solicited through the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel (AP). Annual review and monitoring are the responsibility of the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Plan Review Team (PRT) and new amendments and/or addenda and supporting documentation are prepared by the Plan Development Team (PDT).

Commission management of scup was initiated as one component of a multi-species FMP addressing summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. The Commission approved the FMP for scup in March 1996. Amendment 12 to the FMP, which established revised overfishing definitions, identification and description of essential fish habitat, and defined the framework adjustment process, was approved by the Commission in October 1998. The management unit for scup in US waters is the western Atlantic Ocean from Cape Hatteras North Carolina northward to the US-Canadian border.

The original FMP included a seven-year plan for reducing fishing effort and restoring the stock. The primary concerns were excessive discarding of scup and near collapse of the stock. Management measures implemented in the first year of the plan (1996) included: dealer and vessel permitting and reporting, 9-inch commercial minimum size, 4-inch mesh restriction for vessels retaining over 4,000 pounds of scup, and a 7-inch recreational minimum size. The biological reference point to define overfishing when the plan was initially developed was  $F_{MAX}$ , or  $F=0.25$ . To allow flexibility in addressing unforeseen conditions in the fishery, the plan contained provisions that allow implementation of time and area closures. The plan also specified the option for changes in the recreational minimum size and bag limit, or implementation of a seasonal closure on an annual basis. The original FMP also implemented an annual coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limit, effective in 1997, from which an annual commercial quota and recreational harvest limit would be derived.

Addendum 1 to the FMP established the quota management procedure and distribution of the annual coastwide commercial quota. Addendum 1 details the state-by-state quota system for the summer period (May through October) that was implemented in 1997. Each state receives a share of the summer quota based on historical commercial landings from 1983-1992. This Addendum also established *de minimis* status. A state is granted *de minimis* status if the commercial scup summer period landings for the last preceding calendar year are less than 0.1% of the summer period's quota. *De minimis* status allows for minimal allocations equal to 0.1% of the quota for the summer period to these states. The total amount of quota allocated

to these *de minimis* states is subtracted from the summer quota before the remainder is allocated to the other states.

In June 1997, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts filed a lawsuit against the Secretary of Commerce stating that the historical data used to determine the quota shares underestimated the commercial landings of scup. Massachusetts also stated that the resulting quota share discriminated against Commonwealth of Massachusetts residents. On April 27, 1998, the U.S. District Court voided the state-by-state quota allocations for the summer quota period in the federal FMP, and ordered the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate a regulation that sets forth state-by-state quotas in compliance with the National Standards. The Board developed three Emergency Rules to address the quota management during the summer quota period during 1999, 2000, and 2001.

Amendment 12 established a biomass threshold for scup based on the maximum value of the 3-year moving average of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) spring bottom trawl survey index of spawning stock biomass. The Amendment stipulated that the scup stock was considered overfished when the spawning stock biomass index fell below this value.

Amendment 12 also defined overfishing for scup to occur when the fishing mortality rate exceeded the threshold fishing mortality. Subsequent addenda modified the reference points. In 2002, the Board developed Addendum V to avoid the necessity of developing annual Emergency Rules for summer period quota management. Addendum V established state shares of the summer period quota based on historical commercial landings from 1983-1992, including additional landings from Massachusetts added to the NOAA Fisheries database in 2000. State shares implemented by this addendum will remain in place until the Board takes direct action to change them.

Another significant change to scup management occurred with the approval of Addendum VII in February 2002. This document established a state specific management program for Massachusetts through New York for the 2002 recreational scup fishery based on the average landings (in number of fish) for 1998-2001. Due to the extremely limited data available, the Board developed specific management measures for the states of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. The addendum had no application after 2002. The same addendum language was used verbatim to set management measures for the states of Massachusetts through New York for 2003 through Addendum IX.

Addendum XIX, approved in August 2007, broadened the descriptions of stock status determination criteria contained within the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP to allow for greater flexibility in those definitions, while maintaining objective and measurable criteria for identifying when stocks are overfished. It established acceptable categories of peer-review for stock status determination criteria. When these specific peer-review metrics are met and new or updated information is available, the new or revised stock status determination criteria may be incorporated by the Commission directly into the annual management measures for each species.

Addendum XX sets policies to reconcile quota overages to address minor inadvertent quota overages. It was approved in November 2009. It streamlines the quota transfers process and establishes clear policies and administrative protocols to guide the allocation of transfers from states with underages to states with overages. It also allows for quota transfers to reconcile quota overages after the year's end.

Addendum XXIX was approved by the Board in May 2017. The Addendum shortens the length of the commercial scup summer period and extends the length of the winter II period. The addendum was developed to allow for the better utilization of the commercial quota, which was under-harvested from 2011-2016. Specifically, the change in quota period length allows for higher possession limits for a longer period of time each year, thus increasing the likelihood the commercial fishery will fully harvest the quota. The quota allocation for each period remains unchanged. While Addendum XXIX is a Commission specific document, the Council also took the same action through Framework 10. The new quota periods are the following and were implemented for the 2018 fishing season: Winter 1, January 1-April 30 (120 days); Summer, May 1-September 30 (153 days); Winter II, October 1-December 31 (92 days).

In December 2018, the Commission approved Addendum XXXI through a joint action with the Council. The Board recommended NOAA Fisheries implement regulations to allow transit through federal waters in Block Island Sound for non-federally permitted vessels in possession of summer flounder, scup and black sea bass.

In December 2021, the Board and Council jointly approved changes to the commercial and recreational allocations of summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. These changes are intended to better reflect the current understanding of the historic proportions of catch and landings from the commercial and recreational sectors. The Board and Council developed this amendment in response to recent changes in how recreational catch is estimated by the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), which resulted in a revised time series of recreational data going back to the 1980s. For scup, the revised catch-based allocations provide a 65% share of the acceptable biological catch to the commercial fishery and a 35% share to the recreational fishery. These new changes became effective January 1, 2023.

In June 2022, the Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board (Policy Board) and the Council approved Addendum XXXIV and a Council Framework which modified the process for setting recreational measures and made minor modifications to the recreational accountability measures. The new process gives greater consideration to stock status when determining whether recreational measures should be restricted, liberalized, or remain unchanged for the upcoming two years (

## VIV. Tables and Figures

Table 1). The new process for setting recreational management measures began in 2023 and will sunset no later than the end of 2025 with a goal of implementing an improved process by the beginning of 2026.

In April 2025, the Policy Board and Council approved Addendum XXXVI and a corresponding Council Framework which further modified the process for setting recreational measures outlined in Addendum XXXIV. Additionally, Addendum XXXVI made modifications to the recreational accountability measures. The Policy Board and Council selected a modified version of the Percent Change Approach, which better accounts for stock status when setting measures and creates more opportunities for stability in management measures. The addendum will be implemented in two phases. During the first phase starting in 2026, a harvest-based target will be used, which focuses on achieving a specific level of predicted harvest. The second phase of modifications, which will be implemented for setting 2030 recreational measures and beyond, will update the process to use a catch-based target. Unlike the current process, a catch-based approach aims to achieve a target level of total dead catch, including both harvest and dead discards. This approach will allow for more explicit consideration of how measures affect discards. The Council and Policy Board delayed the transition to a catch-based target until 2030 to allow time for additional analysis on the potential impacts of a catch-based target to measures.

While this FMP overview pertains only to joint and Board actions, there are additional Council only actions that are summarized at <https://www.mafmc.org/sf-s-bsb>.

## II. Status of the Stock

In 2024, scup specifications were developed using information from the 2023 management track assessment. According to the 2023 management track stock assessment, the stock was not overfished and not experiencing overfishing in 2022, the terminal year of the assessment.

Spawning stock biomass (SSB) was estimated to be 193,087 mt in 2022, at 246% of the updated biomass target reference point  $SSB_{MSY}$  proxy =  $SSB_{40\%}$  = 78,593 mt (Figure 1). Fishing mortality was 0.098 in 2022, which was 52% of the updated fishing mortality threshold reference point  $F_{MSY}$  proxy =  $F_{40\%}$  = 0.19.  $F_{40\%}$  was the rate of fishing that would result in 40% of the spawning potential of an unfished stock.

The average recruitment from 1984 to 2022 was 147 million fish at age 0. The 2015 year class was the largest recorded at 569 million fish. However, recruitment was below average in 2017-2022 with the 2019 year class being the smallest within the six-year time series at 37 million fish (Figure 1). SSB is expected to decline in the short term unless more above average year classes recruit to the fishery.

The June 2025 management track stock assessment for scup contains the latest and best information available regarding the status of the scup stock. This assessment incorporated data

through 2024, will inform specifications for the 2026 and 2027 fishing years<sup>1</sup>, and found the stock to be not overfished and not experiencing overfishing in 2024.

### **III. Status of the Fishery**

Commercial scup landings experienced a general declining trend from a peak of 21.73 million pounds in 1981 to the time series low of 2.66 million pounds in 2000, according to data pulled from the ACCSP Data Warehouse. Since 2001, commercial landings increased nearly every year to about 17.81 million pounds in 2013. Commercial landings have declined slightly since, subsiding to 14.45 million lb. in 2024, accounting for about 68.31% of the commercial quota. During 2024, the northern states (Massachusetts through New York) comprised about 69.91% of the landings. States with the largest share of commercial landings in 2024 were Rhode Island (39.88%), New Jersey (27.04%), and New York (19.86%). Otter trawl is the principal gear, accounting for 40%-90% of commercial landings since 1979 (Table 2).

The recreational fishery for scup is significant, with the greatest proportion of the catches taken in states of Massachusetts through New York. Since 2015, recreational harvest has averaged 48% of total landings (commercial and recreational). From 2015 to 2024, recreational harvests ranged from 10.00 million pounds in 2016 to 17.36 million pounds in 2022 (Table 3). The total recreational catch (harvest plus releases) of scup in 2024 was 27.74 million fish, lower than the ten-year average of 30.66 million fish (Table 4). The assumed discard mortality rate in the recreational fishery is 15%. In 2024, an estimated 48.7% of the harvest (in numbers of fish) originated from private/rental boats, while shore-based anglers and party/charter boats accounted for an average of 40.8% and 10.5% of the harvest, respectively (Figure 2). In addition, 94% of scup harvested by recreational fishermen (in numbers of fish) were caught in state waters and about 6% in federal waters (Figure 3).

### **IV. Status of Research and Monitoring**

Commercial landings data are collected by the NOAA Fisheries Vessel Trip Report system and by state reporting systems. The NEFSC sea sampling program collects commercial discard information. Biological samples (age, length) from the commercial fishery are collected through the NEFSC weighout system, the observer program, and by the state of North Carolina. Recreational landings and discard information is obtained through MRIP. Fishery-independent abundance indices are available from surveys conducted by the NEFSC, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). All surveys, with the exception of Delaware's, are included in the species stock assessment.

### **V. Status of Management Measures and Developing Issues**

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<sup>1</sup>Additional information about the 2025 Scup Management Track Assessment can be found through the Northeast Fishery Science Center's Stock Assessment Support Information query tool: <https://apps-nefsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/saw/sasi.php>

Recreational Reform Initiative topics, agreed upon in December 2022 by the Board and Council for further development include a framework/addenda and amendment. The Board and Council took final action on the Recreational Measures Setting Process Framework/Addenda (Addendum XXXVI to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP) in April 2025 and work on the amendment is ongoing. The Recreational Sector Separation Amendment will consider management options for recreational sector separation, including mode management, as well as consideration of for-hire permitting and reporting requirements. Final action on the amendment is tentatively scheduled for summer/fall 2026. The issue of enhancing recreational data collection will be explored separately through a white paper to help the Policy Board and the Council clarify goals for potential future action.

Updates on ongoing recreational reform work can be found [here](#).

## **V. Scup Compliance Criteria**

### ***Commercial Fishery***

*The following management measures are for 2024 and may change annually.*

Minimum size of possession: 9" Total Length

Minimum mesh: Otter trawls must have a minimum mesh size of 5" for the first 75 meshes from the terminus of the net and a minimum mesh size of 5" throughout the net for codends constructed with fewer than 75 meshes.

Threshold to trigger minimum mesh requirements: Trawl vessels are subject to the minimum mesh requirements if possessing 1,000 pounds or more of scup from October 1 through April 14, 2,000 pounds or more of scup from April 15 through June 15, and 200 pounds or more of scup from June 16 through September 30.

Maximum roller rig trawl roller diameter: 18"

Pot and trap escape vents: 3.1" round, 2.25" square

Pot and trap degradable fastener provisions: a) untreated hemp, jute, or cotton string 3/16" (4.8 mm) or smaller; b) magnesium alloy timed float releases or fasteners; c) ungalvanized, uncoated iron wire of 0.094" (2.4mm) or smaller

2024 commercial quota: 21.15 million pounds

ASMFC summer quota: 8,236,655 pounds (State by state shares in Table 5)

Winter I and II quotas and landing limits: Winter I = 9,539,294 lbs; 50,000 lb trip limit, 1,000 lb trip limits when the quota reaches 80%; Winter II = 5,074,019 lbs, 16,500 lb trip limit (Winter II quota and trip limits were increased from initial amounts by rollover of unused quota from Winter I; Table 6)

*The following required measures are not subject to annual adjustment:*

Vessel and dealer permitting requirements: States are required to implement a permit for fishermen fishing exclusively in state waters, and for dealers purchasing exclusively from such fishermen. In addition, states are expected to recognize federal permits in state waters, and are encouraged to establish a moratorium on entry into the fishery.

Vessel and dealer reporting requirements: States are required to implement reporting requirements for state permitted vessels and dealers and to report landings from state waters to NOAA Fisheries.

Scup pot or trap definition: A scup pot or trap will be defined by the state regulations that apply to the vessels principal port of landing.

Quota management requirements:

**Winter I and II:** States are required to implement landing limits as specified annually. States are required to notify state and federal permit holders of initial period landing limits, in-period adjustments, and closures. States are required to prohibit fishing for, and landing of, scup when a period quota has been landed, based on projections by NOAA Fisheries. States must report landings from state waters to NOAA Fisheries for counting toward the quota.

**Summer:** States are required to implement a plan of trip limits or other measures to manage their summer share of the scup quota. States are required to prohibit fishing for, and landing of, scup when their quota share is landed. States may transfer or combine quota shares. States must report all landings from state waters to NOAA Fisheries for counting toward the state shares.

### ***Recreational Fishery***

*The following measures are for 2024 and may change annually:* Recreational Measures<sup>2</sup>

2024 Minimum size, possession limits, and seasonal closure: Table 7

2024 Recreational Harvest Limit: 13.18 million pounds

### ***Other Measures***

Reporting: States are required to submit an annual compliance report to the Chair of the PRT by June 1 of each year. This report should detail the state's management program for the current year and establish proof of compliance with all mandatory management measures. It should

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<sup>2</sup> Past FMP Reviews are available on the [Commissions' scup webpage](#), which contain prior year's recreational measures.

include landings information from the previous year, and the results of any monitoring or research programs.

*De minimis*: A state is granted *de minimis* status if the commercial scup landings for the last preceding calendar year for which data are available for the summer period are less than 0.1% of the summer period's quota. *De minimis* status allows for minimal allocations equal to 0.1 % of the quota for the summer period to these states. The total amount of quota allocated to these *de minimis* states is subtracted from the summer quota before the remainder is allocated to the other states. States desiring *de minimis* classification must make a formal request in writing through the PRT for review and consideration by the Board.

*This summary of compliance criteria is intended to serve as a quick reference guide. It in no way alters or supersedes compliance criteria as contained in the Scup FMP and any Amendments thereto.*

**Scup Fishery Management Plan Compliance Schedule**

***Commercial Fishery***

<b>Management Measures</b>	<b>Date Implemented</b>
Ability to implement and enforce period landing limits	1/1/97
Ability to notify permit holders of landing limits and closures	5/1/97
Ability to close the summer fishery once the state share is harvested	5/1/97
Ability to close the winter fisheries once the period quota is harvested	5/1/97
9" total length minimum size limit	6/30/96
Minimum mesh size of 5" diamond mesh throughout codend	1/1/05
Pot and trap escape vents (min 3.1" square/rectangular; each side at least 2.25" in length), degradable fasteners	6/30/96
Roller diameter restriction (maximum of 18")	6/30/96
Vessel permit and reporting requirements, state	1/1/97
Dealer permit and reporting requirements, state	1/1/97

***Recreational Fishery***

<b>Management Measures</b>	<b>Date Implemented</b>
Size limit	6/30/96
Possession limit	6/30/96

**General**

States submit annual monitoring and compliance report	6/1 annually
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**Annual Specifications**

<b>Commercial</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Winter I Landing Limits	1/1/24
Winter II Landing Limits	10/1/24

<b>Recreational</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Massachusetts– New York (inclusive)	
State specific minimum size, possession limit and season	1/1/24
New Jersey – North Carolina (inclusive)	
Federal coastwide minimum size, possession limit and season, or more restrictive measures	1/1/24

**VI. Plan Review Team Comments and Recommendations**

- The PRT notes that after reviewing state compliance reports, most states are consistent with the FMP requirements with only one issue identified: Delaware’s regulations regarding pot and trap escape vents are consistent with the requirements for black sea bass, but not consistent with the larger escape vent requirement for scup.
  - In 2021, Delaware staff informed Commission staff that Delaware’s management section decided against making any changes to their pot regulations since Delaware has no directed scup fishery with minimal incidental landings. Additionally, the Delaware management section said that larger scup escape vent requirements would interfere with their lobster pot regulations.
  - The PRT discussed Delaware’s escape vent regulations and noted that when this issue was raised in 2020 the Board did not identify this as a high priority issue. Without a directed fishery, Delaware has maintained minimal landings of less than 0.1% of annual coastwide landings. As such, the PRT recommends that Delaware be exempted from the scup escape vent requirement so long as Delaware can demonstrate during the annual compliance review that there is no directed scup fishery with minimal landings of less than 0.1% of annual coastwide landings.
- With the one exception noted above, the PRT determined that all states have implemented regulations consistent with the FMP requirements.
- Delaware has requested *de minimis* status and meets the requirements for 2024.

**VII. Research Recommendations**

Research recommendations are summarized on page 2 of the [2023 Scup Management Track Stock Assessment](#)

### **VIII. References**

Northeast Fisheries Science Center. 2023. Prepublication copy of the June 2023 management track stock assessment report prepared for the Council and the SSC. Available at: <https://apps-nefsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/saw/sasi.php>

Northeast Fisheries Science Center. 2025. Prepublication copy of the June 2025 management track stock assessment report prepared for the Council and the SSC. Available at: <https://apps-nefsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/saw/sasi.php>

**VIV. Tables and Figures**

**Table 1.** Process for determining the appropriate percent change in harvest when developing management measures for 2024.

<b>Future RHL vs Harvest Estimate</b>	<b>Stock Size SSB/SSB<sub>MSY</sub></b>	<b>Change in Harvest</b>
Future 2-year avg. RHL <b>greater than</b> upper bound of harvest estimate confidence interval	> 1.5	Liberalization percent equal to difference between harvest estimate and 2-year avg. RHL, not to exceed 40%
	1 – 1.5	Liberalization percent equal to difference between harvest estimate and 2-year avg. RHL, not to exceed 20%
	< 1	10% Liberalization
Future 2-YR avg. RHL <b>within</b> confidence interval of harvest estimate	> 1.5	10% Liberalization
	1-1.5	0%
	< 1	10% Reduction
Future 2-YR avg. RHL <b>less than</b> lower bound of harvest estimate confidence interval	> 1.5	10% Reduction
	1-1.5	Reduction percent equal to difference between harvest estimate and 2-year avg. RHL, not to exceed 20%
	< 1	Reduction percent equal to difference between harvest estimate and 2-year avg. RHL, not to exceed 40%

**Table 2.** Scup commercial landings by state 2015-2024 in pounds.

Source: Commercial landings summaries generated using ACCSP Data Warehouse for 2015-2023 data and state compliance reports for 2024 data (July 2025).

State	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	2024**
MA	1,380,263	1,535,946	2,564,220	1,486,676	1,247,961	788,665	973,864	1,065,764	764,851	797,756
RI	6,793,854	6,808,917	5,973,305	4,713,742	4,583,835	4,302,324	4,272,466	3,622,627	4,003,214	5,761,715
CT	983,042	941,532	748,285	792,737	1,141,067	990,091	780,189	706,891	875,529	671,084
NY	4,050,297	3,504,265	3,464,504	3,348,877	4,067,582	4,819,807	4,212,010	4,025,236	3,521,805	2,869,898
NJ	2,981,573	2,336,172	1,841,315	2,475,986	1,836,807	2,246,003	2,358,904	2,417,119	3,434,637	3,906,501
DE	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
MD*	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
VA	509,471	447,257	559,192	441,162	462,085	328,411	355,160	196,126	258,892	283,213
NC*	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,954,095</b>	<b>15,739,585</b>	<b>15,437,809</b>	<b>13,380,939</b>	<b>13,778,483</b>	<b>13,605,147</b>	<b>13,092,858</b>	<b>12,124,188</b>	<b>12,967,800</b>	<b>14,447,540</b>

C= Confidential

\*MD & NC landings are not confidential; they were marked as such in order to comply with the rule of three for maintaining confidentiality for other state commercial landings totals

\*\*2024 landings are still preliminary

**Table 3.** Recreational scup harvest (A+B1) by state (2015-2024) in pounds.

Source: Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). These estimates may differ from MRIP estimates depending on query date (data queried July 2025).

<b>State</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>MA</b>	1,955,270	2,156,731	2,363,921	3,021,959	1,924,202	1,174,791	3,763,515	2,098,574	1,443,472	1,250,646
<b>RI</b>	1,370,141	1,552,395	1,113,035	2,030,258	2,856,459	1,330,398	2,467,932	2,898,790	2,073,822	2,459,920
<b>CT</b>	1,148,402	1,373,235	1,712,421	2,574,308	2,242,548	2,951,959	2,856,534	1,822,874	1,901,720	1,107,401
<b>NY</b>	7,607,418	4,252,716	6,626,060	4,906,043	6,970,873	6,253,478	7,177,770	10,249,647	6,339,163	6,076,103
<b>NJ</b>	87,658	480,660	1,708,355	443,700	118,832	1,200,941	194,089	284,676	143,228	103,449
<b>DE</b>	674	1	119	362	-	316	1,179	1,757	6,395	56
<b>MD</b>	207	147	6	370	444	578	331	2,211	13	214
<b>VA</b>	4,081	183,405	-	-	229	-	157,455	-	-	38
<b>NC</b>	405	-	508	420	2,637	1,346	2,831	2,848	4,003	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,174,256</b>	<b>9,999,290</b>	<b>13,524,425</b>	<b>12,977,420</b>	<b>14,116,224</b>	<b>12,913,807</b>	<b>16,621,636</b>	<b>17,361,377</b>	<b>11,911,816</b>	<b>10,997,910</b>

**Table 4.** Estimated scup recreational harvest, releases, dead releases, total catch, and total removals in numbers of fish by marine recreational anglers, 2015 to 2024.

Source: MRIP. These estimates may differ from MRIP estimates depending on query date (data queried July 2025).

Year	Total Catch (A+B1+B2)	Harvest (A+B1)	Released (B2)	Dead Releases (15% of B2)	Total Removals (Harvest + Dead Releases)
2015	25,154,965	11,498,781	13,656,184	2,048,428	13,547,209
2016	31,493,867	9,143,579	22,350,288	3,352,543	12,496,122
2017	41,199,433	13,820,610	27,378,823	4,106,823	17,927,433
2018	30,374,923	14,545,489	15,829,434	2,374,415	16,919,904
2019	28,666,419	14,954,159	13,712,260	2,056,839	17,010,998
2020	27,268,600	14,493,247	12,775,353	1,916,303	16,409,550
2021	31,702,554	16,595,456	15,107,098	2,266,065	18,861,521
2022	36,017,625	17,712,319	18,305,306	2,745,796	20,458,115
2023	27,006,701	12,845,119	14,161,582	2,124,237	14,969,356
2024	27,743,666	10,889,737	16,853,929	2,528,089	13,417,826
<b>10 YR AVG</b>	<b>30,662,875</b>	<b>13,649,850</b>	<b>17,013,026</b>	<b>2,551,954</b>	<b>16,201,803</b>

**Table 5.** State by state summer period quota for 2024.

State	Share	2024 ASMFC Initial Quota	Transfers	2024 ASMFC Final Quota
ME	0.0012	9,967		9,967
MA	0.2159	1,778,071	-400,000	1,378,071
RI	0.5620	4,628,552		4,628,552
CT	0.0315	259,783	400,000	659,783
NY	0.1583	1,303,423		1,303,423
NJ	0.0292	240,236		240,236
MD	0.0001	980		980
VA	0.0017	13,592		13,592
NC	0.0003	2,051		2,051
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8,236,655</b>		<b>8,236,655</b>

**Table 6. Scup landings by period.**

Source: ACCSP Data Warehouse, July 2025.

Year	Period	Commercial Quota (Winter II Adjusted)	Trip Limits	Landings (lbs)	Date Closed	% of Quota Landed
2015	Winter I	9,578,008	50,000/1,000*	7,400,159	--	77.3
	Summer	8,269,322	--	5,416,065	--	65.5
	Winter II	5,468,726	18,000	4,137,871	--	75.7
2016	Winter I	9,232,987	50,000/1,000*	6,079,576	--	65.8
	Summer	7,972,176	--	4,967,061	--	62.3
	Winter II	6,454,943	18,000	4,692,948	--	72.7
2017	Winter I	8,291,190	50,000/1,000*	5,920,244	--	71.4
	Summer	7,458,013	--	5,408,300	--	72.5
	Winter II	5,160,914	18,000	4,109,265	--	79.6
2018	Winter I	10,820,000	50,000/1,000*	4,854,809	--	44.9
	Summer	9,340,986	--	4,757,021	--	50.9
	Winter II	9,766,677	28,500	3,768,764	--	38.6
2019	Winter I	10,820,000	50,000/1,000*	5,547,739	--	51.3
	Summer	9,340,986	--	4,168,557	--	44.6
	Winter II	9,090,487	27,000	4,062,187	--	44.7
2020	Winter I	10,027,597	50,000/1,000*	5,176,489	--	51.6
	Summer	8,658,277	--	4,540,426	--	52.4
	Winter II	8,394,299	24,000	3,888,233	--	46.3
2021	Winter I	9,247,904	50,000/1,000*	5,821,535	--	62.9
	Summer	7,985,056	--	4,041,881	--	50.6
	Winter II	6,683,454	21,000	3,229,907	--	48.3
2022	Winter I	9,194,201	50,000/1,000*	4,995,175	--	54.3
	Summer	7,938,686	--	3,770,216	--	47.5
	Winter II	7,468,343	24,000	3,358,797	--	45.0
2023	Winter I	6,319,911	50000/1,000*	5,761,926	--	91.2
	Summer	5,456,895	--	3,647,702	--	66.8
	Winter II	3,037,824	13,500	3,558,172	--	117.1
2024	Winter I	9,539,294	50000/1,000*	7,804,767	--	81.8
	Summer	8,236,655	--	3,662,272	--	44.5
	Winter II	5,074,019	16,500	2,945,435	--	58.0

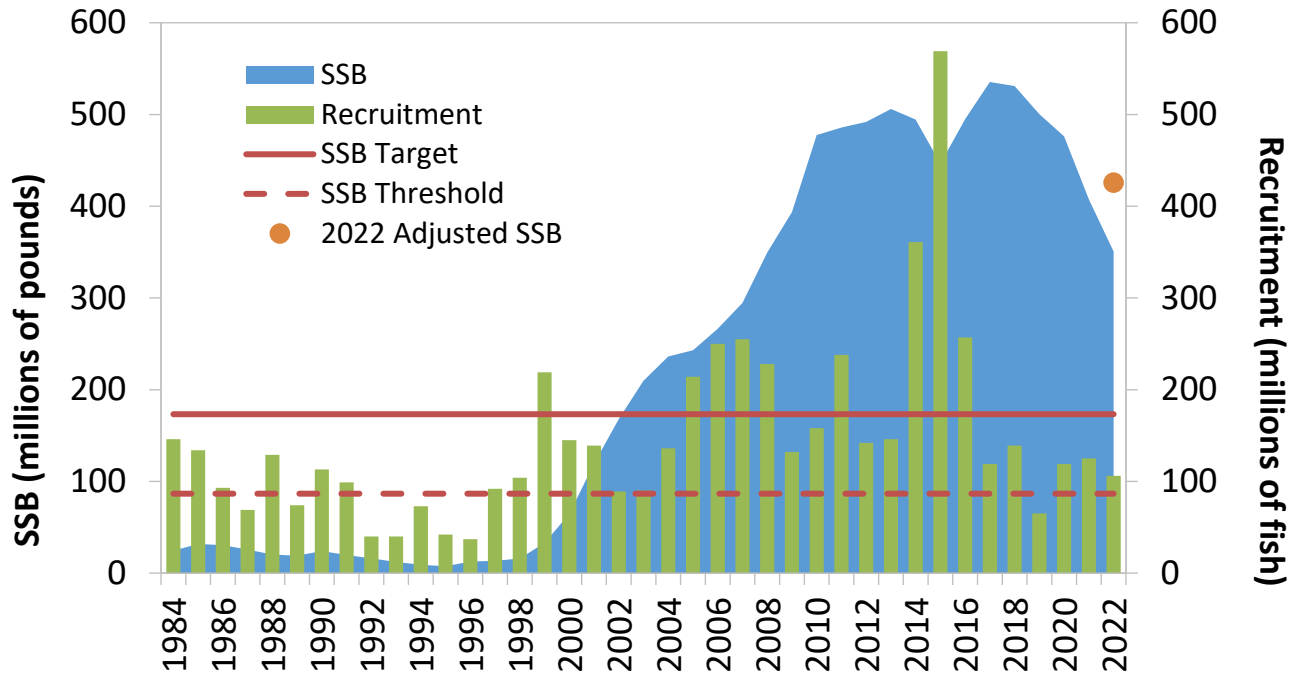
\*The first number indicates the trip limit until 80% of the quota is caught; the second number is the trip limit after that threshold is exceeded.

\*\* Winter II trip limits represent unused Winter I quota adjustments.

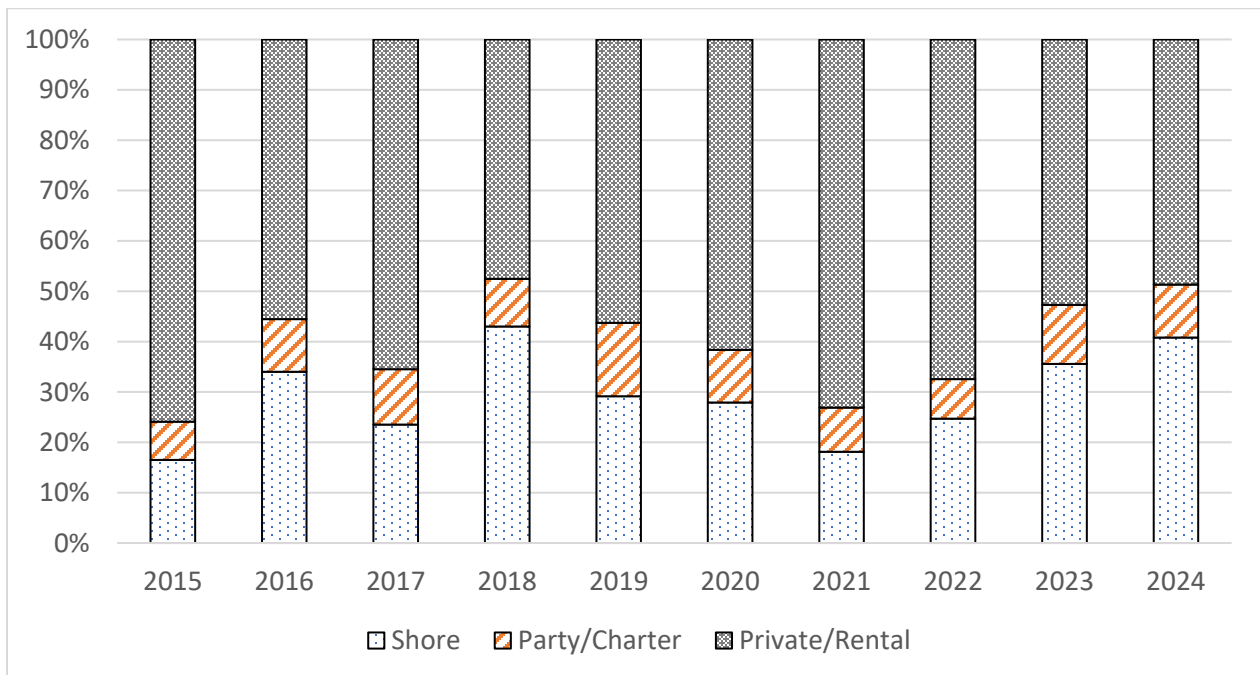
\*\*\*Scup landings by period pulled from the ACCSP Data Warehouse may differ from state compliance reports and federal dealer data records. All 2024 data listed in this report are preliminary.

**Table 7.** Scup state-by-state recreational management measures for 2024 and 2025.

STATE	Mode	Size Limit	Possession Limit	Open Season
MASSACHUSETTS	Shore	9.5"	30 fish	May 1 – December 31
	Private	11"		
	For-Hire	11"	40 fish	May 1 – June 30
			30 fish	July 1 – December 31
RHODE ISLAND	Shore	9.5"	30 fish	May 1 – December 31
	Private	11"		
	For-Hire	11"	30 fish	May 1 – August 31
			40 fish	September 1 – October 31
			30 fish	November 1 – October 31
CONNECTICUT	Shore	9.5"	30 fish	May 1 – December 31
	Private	11"		
	For-Hire	11"	30 fish	May 1 – August 31
			40 fish	September 1 – October 31
			30 fish	November 1 – December 31
NEW YORK	Shore	9.5"	30 fish	May 1 – December 31
	Private	11"		
	For-Hire	11"	30 fish	May 1 – August 31
			40 fish	September 1 – October 31
			30 fish	November 1 – December 31
NEW JERSEY	All	10"	30 fish	January 1 – June 30
				September 1 – December 31
DELAWARE, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, & NORTH CAROLINA (North of Cape Hatteras, N of 35° 15'N)	All	9"	30 fish	January 1 – December 31

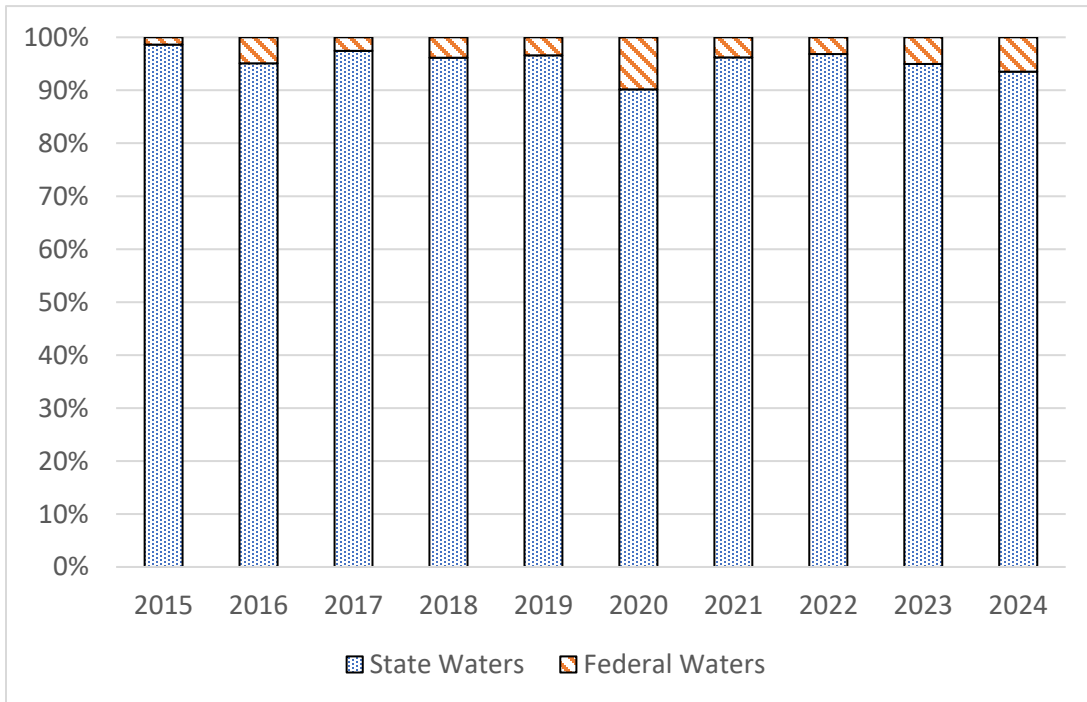


**Figure 1.** Scup spawning stock biomass and recruitment  
 Source: Scup Management Track Stock Assessment, 2023.



**Figure 2.** The percent of scup harvested by recreational fishing mode in numbers of fish, Maine through North Carolina, 2015-2024.

Source: MRIP. These estimates may differ from MRIP estimates depending on query date (data queried July 2025).



**Figure 3.** The percent of scup recreational landings (numbers of fish) in state vs. federal waters, Maine through North Carolina, 2015-2024.

Source: MRIP. These estimates may differ from MRIP estimates depending on query date (data queried July 2025).