



Public Informational Meeting: March 1st, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

2022 Marine Recreational Fishery Regulations

The CT DEEP Marine Fisheries Program (MFP) is holding a Public Informational Meeting to provide information on the status of important recreational species, to provide information on planned recreational regulations for the 2022 fishing season, and to gather public input on potential 2022 regulation options for black sea bass and summer flounder (fluke).

The meeting will be held virtually using Zoom webinar on the evening of Tuesday, March 1st, from 6:00-8:00 PM. To register for the meeting, please use the web-link below. After registering, you will receive an e-mail with information on how to connect to the meeting:

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Mar 1, 2022 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: 2022 Marine Recreational Fishing Regulations Informational Meeting

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://ctdeep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wqIEfe7VReOxvHLIALwRDQ

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) jointly manage several fish species on the Atlantic coast, including **black sea bass, summer flounder, and scup**. ASMFC and MAFMC have recently voted to approve coastwide changes in recreational regulations for these three species in 2022. More detail for each species is provided below.

Black Sea Bass

ASMFC and MAFMC have voted to approve a coastwide **20.7% reduction** in recreational harvest for 2022. DEEP MFP staff have developed recreational regulation options which will meet Connecticut's required seabass harvest reduction for 2022. At the informational meeting, DEEP MFP will present regulation options for public input and provide additional background information on the black sea bass harvest reduction.

Summer Flounder (Fluke)

ASMFC and MAFMC have voted to approve a coastwide **16.5% liberalization** in recreational harvest for 2022. Connecticut and New York comprise a single management area for recreational summer flounder management and are required to have identical regulations. DEEP MFP staff have worked with New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation staff to develop recreational regulation options which will meet the summer flounder harvest liberalization for 2022. At the informational meeting, DEEP MFP will present regulation options for public input and provide additional background information on the summer flounder harvest liberalization.

Scup (Porgy)

ASMFC and MAFMC have voted to approve a **1-inch increase in scup minimum length** coastwide. Connecticut's minimum scup length limit will therefore increase from 9-inches to 10-inches for 2022, except for Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing Sites, at which the minimum scup length limit will increase from 8-inches to 9-inches. In addition, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service is proposing to **close federal waters for recreational scup fishing in 2022**. At the informational meeting, DEEP MFP will present additional background information on the scup length limit increase and proposed federal waters closure.

At this time, DEEP anticipates no changes to recreational seasons, bag limits or size limits for any species other than black sea bass, summer flounder, and porgy in 2022. However, at this meeting, MFP will provide information on the status of important recreational species including striped bass, bluefish, and tautog (blackfish).

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint, or require some other accommodation, including equipment to facilitate virtual participation, please contact us at 860-418-5910 or by email at deep.accommodations@ct.gov. Any person needing an accommodation for hearing impairment may call the State of Connecticut relay number - 711. In order to facilitate efforts to provide an accommodation, please request all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program or event.