



Commercial Fishery Possession Limit Increase for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass

NOTICE

Effective immediately, the following possession limits will be in effect for Connecticut's commercial summer flounder and black sea bass fisheries:

Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass

For landings from trawl net:

- Summer Flounder: 12,000 pounds per weekly period
- Black Sea Bass: 5,000 pounds per weekly period
- Each weekly period will begin on Sunday at 0001 hours and end 7 days later on Saturday at 2359 hours.
- Call-in / Call-out is required under weekly landing limits: prior to departure and again prior to offloading call EnCon Police at 860.424.3503 (24/7) and provide vessel name, Captain's name, departure date, return date, port of landing and prior to offloading the hail weight of summer flounder and black sea bass onboard.

For landings from all other gears:

- Summer Flounder: 1,000 pounds
- Black Sea Bass: 600 pounds
 - For black sea bass, from lobster pots when in possession of lobsters: 60 pounds. No Black Sea Bass License Endorsement required. This does not apply to personal use lobster license holders. Endorsement holders may not land 60 pounds of black sea bass from lobster pots in addition to the prevailing daily possession limit for endorsement holders.
 - Call-in required for black sea bass landings from lobster pots: To provide for timely monitoring of black sea bass landings from lobster pots, the Marine Fisheries Program has implemented a mandatory weekly call-in reporting requirement for black sea bass landings from lobster pots. Any commercial fisherman landing black sea bass from lobster pots is required to contact the Marine Fisheries Program weekly (deadline of 2359 hours on Monday) by calling 860-447-4323 and leaving a message with the following information: the fisherman's name, commercial fishing plate number, the reporting week ending date (reporting weeks run Sunday through Saturday) and total pounds of black sea bass landed from lobster pots during the reporting week.
 - **Reminder:** The lobster fishery in Long Island Sound (LMA 6) is currently closed to both recreational and commercial fisheries through November 28, 2022. Possession of lobsters taken from LMA 6 or from traps with LMA 6 trap tags is prohibited during

the closure, required under Addendum XVII to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (Commission) American Lobster Fishery Management Plan which was approved in November 2011.

Except as noted above for black sea bass landings from lobster pots when the lobster fishery is open, a summer flounder license endorsement is required to land summer flounder, and a black sea bass license endorsement is required to land black sea bass.

The possession limits listed above apply to the aggregate of all persons on board the vessel per trip or per day whichever is the longer period of time. Transfer of these species between vessels at sea is prohibited. In any instance where there is a violation of the possession limit on board a vessel carrying more than one person when the catch is commingled, the violation shall be deemed to have been committed by the owner of the vessel, or the operator of the vessel, if the owner is not on board. *When any person on a vessel is commercial fishing, the commercial possession limit applies to the entire vessel and no person on that vessel may also possess fish under a recreational creel limit.*

For current commercial fishery trip limits and quota status:

Call 860-434-6374 24/7 for a recorded message of current possession limits or see: www.ct.gov/deep/TL.

The Department monitors landings and adjusts trip limits according to Department regulations in an attempt to provide fishing opportunity throughout the year for all participants in the commercial fishery. In addition, the Department strives to provide advance notification of trip limit changes, although this may not always be possible due to rapidly escalating or unanticipated landings. In such circumstances, only a short notification period may be possible.

The information provided in this notice is a summary of possession limits and other general rules only. For complete information on commercial fishing regulations please see: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/fishing/commercial/marinecircpdf.pdf>, or contact the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program by email at deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov, by mail at PO Box 719, Old Lyme, CT 06371 or leaving a voicemail at 860.434.6043 between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

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.