



Notice to Recreational Anglers
NEW SCUP AND BLACK SEA BASS
RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR 2023

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) have taken action to reduce the coastwide recreational harvest of black sea bass and scup in 2023. Accordingly, CT regulations for these species will change for 2023:

CT black sea bass recreational regulations for 2023:

Minimum length: 16 inches (no change from 2022)
Open season: May 19 – June 23; July 8 – December 1
Season Closed June 24 – July 7
(change from open season of May 19 – December 1 in 2022)
Bag limit: 5 fish (no change from 2022)

For paying passengers on Party / Charter vessels (no changes from 2022):

Minimum length: 16 inches
Open season: May 19 – December 31
Bag limit: 5 fish from May 19 – August 31
7 fish from September 1 – December 31

CT scup recreational regulations for 2023:

Minimum length: 10.5 inches for boat anglers; 9.5 inches for shore anglers
(change from 10 inches for all anglers in 2022)
Open season: May 1 – December 31 (change from year-round season in 2022)
Bag limit: 30 fish (no change from 2022)

For paying passengers on Party / Charter vessels:

Minimum length: 10.5 inches (change from 10 inches in 2022)
Open season: May 1 – December 31 (change from year-round season in 2022)
Bag limit: 30 fish from January 1 – August 31 (no change from 2022)
40 fish from September 1 – October 31 (change from 50 in 2022)
30 fish from November 1 – December 31 (no change from 2022)

Note: scup minimum length is 9.5 inches at all shore sites, including Enhanced Opportunity Fishing Sites where minimum length was previously 9 inches in 2022.

2023 Connecticut marine recreational fishing regulations are available at:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/Saltwater-Fishing-Guide/Species-Regulations>

For further information, contact the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program by email at deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov, by mail at P.O. Box 719, Old Lyme, CT 06371 or by telephone at 860.434.6043.

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