

Commercial Fishery Possession Limit Increases

NOTICE

Effective 0001 hours, Sunday, September 3, 2023, the following possession limits will be in effect for Connecticut's commercial scup and black sea bass fisheries:

Scup:

- 2,000 pounds for holder of a Scup License Endorsement
- For Restricted Commercial Fishing License holders: 100 fish
- From lobster pots, when in possession of lobsters: 10 fish. This does not apply to personal use license holders.

The Department estimates, as of Thursday, August 31, 2023, 82.6% of Connecticut's summer period commercial scup quota had been landed.

Black Sea Bass:

- 75 pounds for holders of a Black Sea Bass License Endorsement.
- From lobster pots when in possession of lobsters: 0 pounds. The black sea bass allowance from lobster pots for commercial fishermen who do not hold a black sea bass quota managed species endorsement was previously discontinued for the remainder of 2023.
- As of Thursday, August 31, 2023, 80.6% of Connecticut's 2023 commercial black sea bass quota has been landed.

REMINDER:

The possession limit applies to the vessel, regardless of how many persons are on board. Possession limits apply per trip or per day, whichever is the longer period of time. Transfer of black sea bass between vessels at sea is prohibited.

For current commercial fishery trip limits and quota status, call 860-434-6374 24/7 for a recorded message of current possession limits, or visit <https://portal.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.

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.

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