

Commercial Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Possession Limit Changes

Black Sea Bass

Effective 0001 hours Thursday, September 21, 2023, the possession limit for black sea bass will be:

- 150 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 Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 82.3% of Connecticut's 2023 commercial black sea bass quota has been landed.

Scup

Effective 0001 hours Sunday, October 1, 2023, the possession limit for scup will be 13,500 pounds as specified by NOAA Fisheries for the Winter 2 Period (October 1 – December 31). No Scup License Endorsement required. NOAA Fisheries is rolling over the unused coastwide quota from the Winter 1 Period (January 1 – April 30) to the Winter 2 Period. Only 87 percent of the 6,319,911 pound Winter 1 coastwide quota was harvested in 2023, leaving 804,630 pounds available to be rolled over to the Winter 2 coastwide quota. The revised Winter 2 commercial scup coastwide quota is raised to 3,037,824 pounds.

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/marinecirpdf.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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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.