



Public Informational Meetings: February 26th & 28th

2024 Marine Recreational Fishing Regulations

The CT DEEP Marine Fisheries Program (MFP) is holding two Public Informational Meetings to provide information on the status of important recreational fisheries and planned recreational regulations for the 2024 fishing season, as well as to gather public input on 2024 regulation options for scup and summer flounder. The same information will be presented at both meetings. MFP is holding both an in-person and a virtual meeting with identical content in the interest of maximizing opportunities for public participation.

The first meeting will be held in person on Monday, February 26th from 6:30-8:00 PM at:

UCONN Avery Point Campus
Lowell P. Weicker Building (Marine Sciences Building), Seminar Room 103
1084 Shennecossett Rd, Groton CT 06340

Parking is available in Lot D (Employee Parking). The Lowell P. Weicker Building (formerly the Marine Sciences Building) is located on the south end of the campus. A campus map showing the location of Lot D and the Weicker Building (LWB on the map) can be found at this link:

<https://marinesciences.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/459/2019/09/Avery-Point-Campus-Map-v5-FY2020.pdf>

The second meeting will be held virtually via Zoom webinar on Wednesday, February 28th from 6:30-8:00 PM. To register for the meeting, please use the link below. After registering, you will receive an e-mail with information on how to connect to the meeting:

Registration link for the webinar:

https://ctdeep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AFSW-7kmRPesAYEjDhhfWw

Additional Information

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 **scup and summer flounder**. ASMFC and MAFMC have recently voted to implement coastwide changes in recreational regulations for these two species in 2024.

Scup (Porgy)

ASMFC and MAFMC have voted to implement a coastwide **10% reduction** in scup recreational harvest for 2024 based on a finding that recreational harvest under “status quo” (i.e., same as 2023) regulations would exceed the 2024 Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL) for scup. States are required to modify their scup recreational regulations to achieve the 10% harvest reduction. The overwhelming majority of scup recreational harvest (>90%) occurs in the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York, and the states within this “northern region” have an informal agreement to implement uniform scup recreational regulations for the sake of interstate consistency. DEEP has worked with corresponding agencies in the northern region to develop the following scup regulation options for 2024 (2023 regulations also shown for comparison):

2023 Scup Recreational Regulations (for comparison to 2024 options)

	Boat	Shore	For-Hire
Minimum Length	10.5 inches	9.5 inches	10.5 inches
Bag Limit	30 fish	30 fish	30 fish ^a
Season	May 1 – Dec. 31	May 1 – Dec. 31	May 1 – Dec. 31

^awith exception of “bonus season” bag limit of 40 fish from Sept. 1 – Oct. 31

2024 Scup Recreational Regulation Options

Option 1: Increase Boat and For-Hire minimum length by 0.5 inches, no other changes from 2023 regulations.

	Boat	Shore	For-Hire
Minimum Length	11 inches	9.5 inches	11 inches
Bag Limit	30 fish	30 fish	30 fish ^a
Season	May 1 – Dec. 31	May 1 – Dec. 31	May 1 – Dec. 31

^awith exception of “bonus season” bag limit of 40 fish from Sept. 1 – Oct. 31

Option 2: Decrease bag limit to 9 fish with exception of a for-hire fall bonus bag limit of 20 fish, no other changes from 2023 regulations.

	Boat	Shore	For-Hire
Minimum Length	10.5 inches	9.5 inches	10.5 inches
Bag Limit	9 fish	9 fish	9 fish ^a
Season	May 1 – Dec. 31	May 1 – Dec. 31	May 1 – Dec. 31

^awith exception of “bonus season” bag limit of 20 fish from Sept. 1 – Oct. 31

Option 3: Move season opening to April 1, increase all minimum lengths by 0.5 inches, decrease bag limit to 20 fish with exception of a for-hire fall bonus bag limit of 40 fish.

	Boat	Shore	For-Hire
Minimum Length	11 inches	10 inches	11 inches
Bag Limit	20 fish	20 fish	20 fish ^a
Season	April 1 – Dec. 31	April 1 – Dec. 31	April 1 – Dec. 31

^awith exception of “bonus season” bag limit of 40 fish from Sept. 1 – Oct. 31

Summer Flounder (Fluke)

ASMFC and MAFMC have voted to implement a coastwide **28% reduction** in summer flounder recreational harvest for 2024 based on a finding that recreational harvest under status quo regulations would exceed the 2024 Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL) for summer flounder. As in recent years, the Commission and Council opted to allow states or regions to develop state- or region-specific summer flounder regulations to meet the 28% harvest reduction rather than implement uniform coastwide regulations. Connecticut and New York constitute a management region for summer flounder and therefore the two states must adopt identical summer flounder recreational regulations. DEEP has worked with NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to develop the following summer flounder regulation options for 2024 (2023 regulations also shown for comparison):

2023 Summer Flounder Recreational Regulations (for comparison to 2024 options)

Minimum Length: 18.5 inches^a

Bag Limit: 4 fish

Season: May 1 – October 9

^awith exception of Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing Sites where minimum length = 17 inches

2024 Summer Flounder Recreational Regulation Options

Option #	1	2	3	4	5	6
Min. Length^a	19"	19"	19"	19"	19.5"	18.5"
Bag Limit	3 fish	3 fish	3 fish	3 fish	4 fish	3 fish
Season Open	May 1	May 4	May 17	May 1 ^b	April 1	June 12
Season Close	Sept. 8	Sept. 14	Sept. 20	Oct. 9 ^b	Oct. 31	Aug. 28

^awith exception of Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing Sites where minimum length = 17 inches

^bOption 4 includes a mid-season closure from July 25 – August 3, both dates inclusive

At this time, DEEP anticipates no changes to recreational size limits, bag limits, or seasons for any species other than scup (porgy) and summer flounder (fluke) in 2024, with the possible exception of a minor one-day adjustment to the season opening date for black sea bass. Regardless, at this meeting, MFP will also provide information on the status of striped bass, black sea bass, bluefish, and tautog (blackfish).

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