

Commercial Fishery Possession Limit Changes

SUMMER FLOUNDER

Effective 0001 hours Sunday, September 29, 2024, the landing limit for the commercial harvest of summer flounder caught in trawl nets will be 300 pounds per week.

- Each weekly period will begin on Sunday at 0001 hours and end 7 days later on Saturday at 2359 hours. The first weekly period will begin on Sunday, September 29, 2024, at 0001 hours and end on Saturday October 5, 2024, at 2359 hours.
- Call-in / Call-out is required for trawl caught landings made under a weekly landing limit.
 - Prior to departure, captains can call EnCon Police at 860.424.3503 (24/7) or send an email to deep.dispatch@ct.gov, and provide the vessel name, Captain's name and phone number, departure date and location, estimated return date and time and port of landing.
 - Prior to offloading, captains must call EnCon Police at 860.424.3503 (24/7) and provide vessel name, Captain's name, return date and time, port of landing and hail weight of summer flounder onboard.
- For all other gears, the possession limit will be 50 pounds per trip or per day, whichever is the longer period of time.
- A summer flounder license endorsement is required for all gear types.

The Department estimates, as of Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 83.7% of Connecticut's 2024 commercial summer flounder quota has been landed.

The transfer of summer flounder 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.

Black Sea Bass

Effective 0001 hours Sunday, September 29, 2024, the possession limit for the commercial harvest of black sea bass will be:

- 500 pounds for holders of a black sea bass license endorsement.

The Department estimates, as of Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 68.9% of Connecticut's 2024 commercial black sea bass quota has been landed.

Scup

Effective 0001 hours Tuesday, October 1, 2024, the possession limit for scup will be 16,500 pounds as specified by NOAA Fisheries for the Winter 2 Period (October 1 – December 31). No Scup License Endorsement required during the Winter 2 period. NOAA Fisheries is rolling over the unused coastwide quota from the Winter 1 Period (January 1 – April 30) to the Winter 2 Period. Only 82% of the 9,539,294 pound Winter 1 coastwide quota was harvested in 2024, leaving 1,703,229 pounds available to be rolled over to the Winter 2 coastwide quota. The revised Winter 2 commercial scup coastwide quota is raised to 5,074,019 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.

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.