

## **Commercial Black Sea Bass and Summer Flounder Fisheries Winter I Bi-Weekly Possession Limit Changes**

### **NOTICE**

**Effective 0001 hours Sunday, March 22, 2026, the following Winter I bi-weekly possession limits will be in effect for Connecticut's commercial fisheries:**

#### **Black Sea Bass:**

- Bi-weekly possession limit will increase to 2,500 lb for holders of a Black Sea Bass License Endorsement.
- 60 lb from lobster pots, when in possession of lobster. No Black Sea Bass License Endorsement Required. Weekly call-in required from lobster pots. Call 860.447.4323 by 2359 hours on Monday and provide name, plate number, reporting week ending data and total pounds landed from pots during the reporting week. This does NOT apply to personal use lobster license holders.

As of Wednesday, March 11, 2026, the Department estimates that 12% of Connecticut's 2026 commercial black sea bass quota has been landed.

**Summer Flounder:** the bi-weekly possession limit will be increased to 4,000 lbs.

As of Wednesday, March 11, 2026, the Department estimates 10.8% of Connecticut's 2026 commercial summer flounder quota has been landed, and that without an increase in the possession limit, the Winter I period (January 1 through April 30) cumulative landings target (20% of the 2026 quota) will not be met prior to the end of the Winter 1 period.

**2026 Winter I Bi-Weeklies:** March 8- March 21, March 22- April 4, April 5- April 18, April 19-April 30

**Federally-permitted seafood dealers are reminded they must submit all reports for a reporting week (Sunday to Saturday) by midnight of the following Tuesday:** <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/resources-fishing/seafood-dealer-reporting-greater-atlantic-region>

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

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.