



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>  
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## 2014 & 2015 Commercial Quotas and Recreational Harvest Limits for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass

*Effective Date: May 22, 2014*

NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service has published a final rule that implements the following measures:

1. Adjusts the **2014 summer flounder (fluke)** commercial and recreational landings allowances based on updated scientific information.
2. Establishes the **2015 summer flounder (fluke), scup (porgy), and black sea bass** landing allowances for both the commercial and recreational fisheries, commonly called “quotas.”
3. Increases the **Scup Winter II Possession Limit from 2,000 lb to 12,000 lb.**

The landing allowances and Annual Catch Limits, outlined below, become effective May 22, 2014. State-specific summer flounder quotas are shown on **page 3**.

<b>Updated 2014 Summer Flounder Quotas</b> (million lb)	
Commercial Sector Annual Catch Limit	12.87
Recreational Sector Annual Catch Limit	9.07
Commercial Quota	10.51
Recreational Harvest Limit	7.01

<b>2015 Specifications</b>			
	Summer Flounder	Scup	Black Sea Bass
<b>Annual Catch Limits (million lb)</b>			
Commercial Sector	13.34	26.35	2.60
Recreational Sector	9.44	7.43	2.90
<b>Landing Allowances less Research Set-Aside (RSA) (million lb)</b>			
Commercial Quota	10.74	20.60	2.17
Recreational Harvest Limit	7.16	6.60	2.26

Commercial fisheries will be closed when the landing allowances are met or exceeded. Annual Catch Limits are based on total catch, both landings and dead-discarded fish. The 2014 Annual Catch Limits will be evaluated in 2015 after all the landings and discard information is available.

*For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.*

If total catch by a sector exceeds these levels, an accountability measure will be implemented in a subsequent fishing year. The attached tables provide more information on the commercial quota breakdown and possession limits for each species.

Please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 with any questions you may have. This letter doesn't contain all the regulations that apply to summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass, and consequently, has no legal force or effect. A copy of the regulations can be obtained through a link to the *Federal Register* at the NOAA Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office website: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

**Table 1. Updated state-by-state commercial summer flounder allocations for 2014.**

(This does not reflect landings or quota transfers that have occurred to date for fishing year 2014. Please see our website for up-to-date landings and quota information.

<http://nero.noaa.gov/aps/monitoring/summerflounder.html>)

	FMP Percent Share	2014 Initial Quota, less RSA	Quota Overages (through 10/31/13)*	Adjusted 2014 Quota, less RSA and overages
State		lb	lb	lb
ME	0.04756	4,998	0	4,998
NH	0.00046	48	0	48
MA	6.82046	716,792	28,199	688,593
RI	15.68298	1,648,193	0	1,648,193
CT	2.25708	237,206	0	237,206
NY	7.64699	803,656	79,355	724,301
NJ	16.72499	1,757,702	0	1,757,702
DE	0.01779	1,870	52,384	0
MD	2.0391	214,298	0	214,298
VA	21.31676	2,240,271	0	2,240,271
NC	27.44584	2,884,403	0	2,884,403
Total**	100	10,509,436	155,376	10,354,060

\*2013 quota overage is determined through comparison of landings for January through October 2013 plus any landings in 2012 in excess of the 2012 quota that were not previously addressed in the 2013 quota specifications, with the final 2013 quota for each state.

\*\*Total quota is the sum of all states having allocation. A state with a negative number has an allocation of zero (0).

**Table 2. State-by-state commercial summer flounder allocations for 2015.**

State	FMP Percent Share	Initial Quota (TAL)	Initial Quota (TAL) less 3% RSA
		lb	lb
ME	0.04756	5,265	5,106
NH	0.00046	51	49
MA	6.82046	754,985	732,280
RI	15.68298	1,736,013	1,683,805
CT	2.25708	249,845	242,332
NY	7.64699	846,477	821,020
NJ	16.72499	1,851,358	1,795,681
DE	0.01779	1,969	1,910
MD	2.0391	225,716	218,928
VA	21.31676	2,359,640	2,288,676
NC	27.44584	3,038,093	2,946,726
Total	100	11,069,410	10,736,512

Note: Overages from fishing year 2014 (through the end of October) plus any unaccounted for overages through fishing year 2013 will be deducted from these initial 2015 quotas. A notice will be published in the *Federal Register* prior to January 1, 2015.

**Table 3. Scup commercial quota allocations for 2014 and Initial Trip Limits.**

Season	Percent Share	Initial Quota (lb)	Initial Quota, less Overages (through 10/31/13)* (lb)	Adjusted Quota, less Overages and RSA (lb)	Possession Limits (Per Trip)** (lb)
Winter I	45.11	9,578,008	N/A	9,290,668	50,000
Summer	38.95	8,270,083	N/A	8,021,980	N/A
Winter II	15.94	3,384,470	N/A	3,282,936	12,000
Total	100.0	21,232,561	N/A	20,595,585	N/A

\*There were no applicable overages through 10/31/13.

\*\*The Winter I possession limit will drop to 1,000 lb upon attainment of 80 percent of that period's allocation. The Winter II possession limit may be adjusted (in association with a transfer of unused Winter I quota to the Winter II period) via notification in the *Federal Register*.

N/A=Not Applicable

**Table 4. Potential Increase in 2014 Winter II Possession Limits based on the Amount of Scup Rolled over from Winter I to Winter II.**

Initial Winter II Possession Limit (lb)	Rollover from Winter I to Winter II (lb)	Increase in Initial Winter II Possession Limit (lb)	Final Winter II Possession Limit after Rollover from Winter I to Winter II (lb)
12,000	0-499,999	0	12,000
12,000	500,000-999,999	1,500	13,500
12,000	1,000,000-1,499,999	3,000	15,000
12,000	1,500,000-1,999,999	4,500	16,500
12,000	2,000,000-2,500,000	6,000	18,000