



# Northeast Region Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
(978) 281-9315

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>  
Date Issued: 12/31/2012

## **2013 Commercial Quotas and Recreational Harvest Limits for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass** Small Entity Compliance Guide

*Effective Date: January 1, 2013*

NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has implemented the 2013 summer flounder (fluke), scup (porgy), and black sea bass landing allowances for both the commercial and recreational fisheries, commonly called “quotas.” The landing allowances and Annual Catch Limits, outlined below, become effective January 1, 2013.

| 2013 Landing Allowances less Research Set-Aside (RSA) (million lb) |                 |       |                |
|--|-----------------|-------|----------------|
|  | Summer Flounder | Scup  | Black Sea Bass |
| Commercial Quota   | 11.44           | 23.52 | 1.78           |
| Recreational Harvest Limit   | 7.63            | 7.56  | 1.84           |
| Annual Catch Limits (million lb)                                   |                 |       |                |
| Commercial Sector  | 12.11           | 30.19 | 2.13           |
| Recreational Sector  | 10.23           | 8.52  | 2.37           |

Commercial and recreational 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 2013 Annual Catch Limits will be evaluated in 2014 after all the landings and discard information is available. If total catch by a sector exceeds these levels, pound-for-pound repayment of the overage will occur in subsequent fishing years. 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 Northeast Regional Office website: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

*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, Northeast Region.*

Table 1. State-by-state commercial summer flounder allocations for 2013.

| State   | Percent Share | Initial Quota, less RSA (lb) | Quota Overages (through 10/31/12)* (lb) | Adjusted Quota, less RSA (lb) |
|---------|---------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| ME      | 0.04756       | 5,441                        | 0                                       | 5,441                         |
| NH      | 0.00046       | 53                           | 0                                       | 53                            |
| MA      | 6.82046       | 780,246                      | 0                                       | 780,246                       |
| RI      | 15.68298      | 1,794,100                    | 0                                       | 1,794,100                     |
| CT      | 2.25708       | 258,205                      | 0                                       | 258,205                       |
| NY      | 7.64699       | 874,799                      | 32,194                                  | 842,605                       |
| NJ      | 16.72499      | 1,913,303                    | 0                                       | 1,913,303                     |
| DE      | 0.01779       | 2,035                        | 53,489                                  | -51,454                       |
| MD      | 2.03910       | 233,269                      | 0                                       | 233,269                       |
| VA      | 21.31676      | 2,438,592                    | 0                                       | 2,438,592                     |
| NC      | 27.44584      | 3,139,746                    | 0                                       | 3,139,746                     |
| Total** | 100.00        | 11,439,789                   | 85,683                                  | 11,405,560                    |

\*2012 quota overage is determined through comparison of landings for January through October 2012 plus any landings in 2011 in excess of the 2011 quota that were not previously addressed in the 2012 quota specifications, with the final 2011 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. Scup commercial quota allocations for 2013 and Initial Trip Limits.

| Season    | Percent Share | Initial Quota (lb) | Initial Quota, less Overages (through 10/31/12)* (lb) | Adjusted Quota, less Overages and RSA (lb) | Possession Limits (Per Trip)** (lb) |
|-----------|---------------|--------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Winter I  | 45.11         | 10,940,583         | N/A   | 10,613,157                                 | 50,000                              |
| Summer    | 38.95         | 9,446,591          | N/A   | 9,163,877                                  | N/A                                 |
| Winter II | 15.94         | 3,865,948          | N/A   | 3,750,249                                  | 2,000                               |
| Total     | 100.0         | 24,253,122         | N/A   | 23,527,283                                 | N/A                                 |

\*There were no applicable overages through 10/31/12.

\*\*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 3. Potential Increase in 2012 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) |
|---|--|---|---|
| 2,000                                   | 0-499,999                                | 0   | 2,000   |
| 2,000                                   | 500,000-999,999                          | 1,500   | 3,500   |
| 2,000                                   | 1,000,000-1,499,999                      | 3,000   | 5,000   |
| 2,000                                   | 1,500,000-1,999,999                      | 4,500   | 6,500   |
| 2,000                                   | 2,000,000-2,500,000                      | 6,000   | 8,000   |