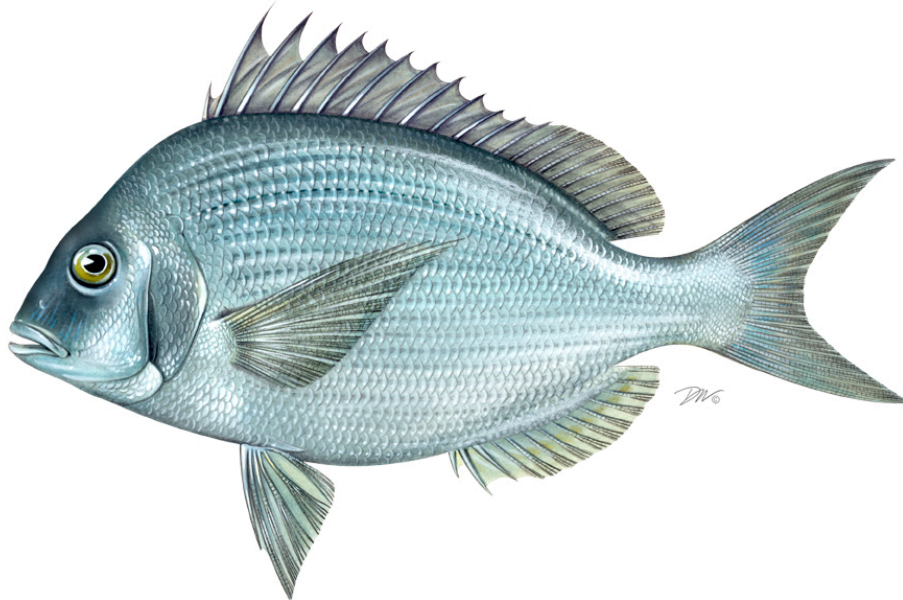


2013 REVIEW OF THE  
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN for the 2012 Scup Fishing Year  
**SCUP** (*Stenotomus chrysops*)



Prepared by:

Kirby Rootes-Murdy, ASMFC

Scup Plan Review Team  
Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Chair  
Paul Caruso, MA  
Jessica Coakley, MAFMC

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## **2013 Review of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Fishery Management Plan for Scup for the 2012 Fishing Year**

### **I. Status of the Fishery Management Plan**

ASMFC management of scup was initiated as one component of a multi-species FMP addressing summer flounder, scup and black sea bass. The Commission approved the Fishery Management Plan for Scup in March 1996. Amendment 12 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP, which established revised overfishing definitions, identification and description of essential fish habitat, and defined the framework adjustment process, was approved by the Commission in October 1998.

The FMP included a seven-year plan for reducing fishing effort and restoring the stock. The primary concerns are excessive discarding of scup and near collapse of the stock. Management measures implemented in the first year of the plan (1996) included: dealer and vessel permitting and reporting, 9-inch commercial minimum size, 4-inch mesh restriction for vessels retaining over 4,000 pounds of scup, and a 7-inch recreational minimum size. The biological reference point to define overfishing is  $F_{MAX}$ , or  $F=0.25$ . To allow flexibility in addressing unforeseen conditions in the fishery, the plan contains framework provisions that allow implementation of time and area closures. Changes in the recreational minimum size and bag limit, or implementation of a seasonal closure, may also be established on an annual basis. Amendment 12 to the multi-species management plan changed the overfishing definition, with  $F_{MAX}$  serving as a proxy for  $F_{MSY}$ .

Addendum 1 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP explains the quota management procedure for management and distribution of the coastwide commercial quota that was approved in September 1996 and implemented as a coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC) in 1997. Addendum 1 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea FMP also details the state-by-state quota system for the summer period (May through October) that was implemented in 1997. Each state receives a share of the summer quota based on historical commercial landings from 1983-1992.

In June 1997, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts filed a lawsuit against the Secretary of Commerce stating that the historical data used to determine the quota shares underestimated the commercial landings of scup. Massachusetts also stated that the resulting quota share discriminated against Commonwealth of Massachusetts residents. On April 27, 1998, the U.S. District Court voided the state-by-state quota allocations for the summer quota period in the federal fishery management plan, and ordered the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate a regulation that sets forth state-by state quotas in compliance with the National Standards. The court order does not technically affect the state-by-state quota allocations that are included in the ASMFC Addendum 1 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP. The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board developed three Emergency Rules to address the quota management during the summer quota period during 1999, 2000 and 2001.

Amendment 12 to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass FMP established a biomass threshold for scup based on the maximum value of the 3-year moving average of the NEFSC spring bottom trawl survey index of spawning stock biomass (2.77 kg/tow, 1977-1979). The scup stock is overfished when the spawning stock biomass index falls below this value. Amendment 12 also defined overfishing for scup to occur when the fishing mortality rate exceeds the threshold fishing mortality of  $F_{MAX}=0.26$ .

In 2002, the Board developed Addendum V to the FMP in order to avoid the necessity of developing annual Emergency Rules for summer period quota management. Addendum V established state shares of the summer period quota based on historical commercial landings from 1983-1992, including additional landings from Massachusetts added to the NMFS database in 2000. State shares implemented by this addendum will remain in place until the Board takes direct action to change them.

Another significant change to scup management occurred with the approval of Addendum VII in February 2002. This document established a state specific management program for the 2002 recreational scup fishery based on the average landings (in number of fish) for 1998-2001. Only Massachusetts through New York (inclusive) were permitted to develop individual management programs. Due to the extremely limited data available, the Board developed specific management measures for the states of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. The addendum had no application after 2002.

Addendum IX established a state specific management program for the 2003 recreational scup fishery based on the average landings (in number of fish) for 1998-2001. Only Massachusetts through New York (inclusive) were permitted to develop individual management programs. Due to the extremely limited data available, the Board developed specific management measures for the states of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. The addendum had no application after 2003.

Addendum X allows for any unused quota from the winter I scup fishery to be rolled over into the winter II fishery period. It also increased the possession limit by 500 lbs per 500,000 pounds of scup that are rolled over. The addendum also establishes an alternative to the start date of the summer period. States can allow for landings of scup by state permit holders beginning on April 15<sup>th</sup>. If there is a closure prior to April 15<sup>th</sup>, state permit holders can land and sell scup caught exclusively in state waters to state and federally permitted dealers after April 15<sup>th</sup> and prior to the Federal opening of the summer period on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Addendum XI, approved in January 2004, allows states to customize scup recreational management measures in order to deal with burden issues associated with the implementation of coastwide measures. It also sets a management process that minimizes the administrative burden when implementing conservation equivalency.

Addendum XIX, approved in August 2007, broadens the descriptions of stock status determination criteria contained within the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP to allow for greater flexibility in those definitions, while maintaining objective and measurable status determination criteria for identifying when stocks or stock complexes covered by the FMP are overfished. It establishes acceptable categories of peer-review for stock status determination criteria. When these specific peer-review metrics are met and new or updated information is available, the new or revised stock status determination criteria may be incorporated by the Commission directly into the annual management measures for each species.

Addendum XX sets policies to reconcile quotas overages to address minor inadvertent quota overages. It was approved in November 2009. It streamlines the quota transfers process and establishes clear policies and administrative protocols to guide the allocation of transfers from states with underages to states with overages. It also allows for quota transfers to reconcile quota overages after the year's end.

Addendum XXI approved in March 2011, established state-by-state measures, requiring states from Massachusetts to New Jersey, plus North Carolina to cut harvest by 37% to 43% to meet the coastwide recreational harvest.

Addendum XXII, approved in February 2012, establishes a regional management approach which allows the northern region states (Massachusetts to New Jersey) to collectively liberalize up to 57%. The southern region states (Delaware to North Carolina) have committed to implementing measures consistent with those recommended for federal waters (the 25 fish, 12.5 inches TL minimum fish size, and an open season from May 19 to October 14 and November 1 to December 31).

States with a declared interest in the Scup FMP are Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. The Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board serves as the species management board, and the Demersal Species Committee guides plan development for the MAFMC. The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Technical Committee addresses technical issues. Industry advice is solicited through the Scup and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel, and annual review and monitoring is the responsibility of the Scup Plan Review Team.

## **II. Status of the Stock**

The assessment model for scup changed in 2008 from a simple index-based model to a complex statistical catch at age model. The new model incorporates a broader range of fishery and survey data than was used previously.

Recruitment at age 0 averaged 91.4 million fish during 1963-1983, during this period recruitment estimates are influenced mainly by the assessment model stock-recruitment relationship. Since 1984, recruitment estimates from the model are influenced mainly by the fishery and survey catches at age. Recruitment at age 0 averaged 104 million fish from 1984-2009. The 1999 and 2000 year classes are estimated to be the largest of the time series, at 207 and 184 million age 0 fish. With greatly improved recruitment and low fishing mortality rates since 1998, spawning

stock biomass (those fish that can reproduce) has steadily increased since to about 157,000 and 155,000 mt in 2008 and 2009, respectively.

The new reference points are  $F_{\text{target}} = F_{40\%} = 0.177$ .  $F_{40\%}$  is the rate of fishing that will result in 40% of the spawning potential of an unfished stock. The spawning stock biomass target is equal to  $SSB_{40\%} = 92,044$  mt or 202.92 million pounds. The 2012 stock assessment update indicates the current  $F$  is 0.040 and  $SSB$  is 410 million pounds, therefore overfishing is not occurring and the stock is rebuilt.

### **III. Status of the Fishery**

The reduced landings of scup in recent years are a reflection of low stock abundance and the effect of quota management. Commercial scup landings, which had declined by over 33% to 8.8 million pounds in 1998, increased to 15.6 million pounds in 1991, then dropped to the lowest value in the time series, 2.7 million pounds in 2000. Commercial landings then increased to almost 7 million pounds in 2002. Total landings have increased slightly each year to about 8.2 million pounds in 2001. The 2002 commercial landings of 3.8 million pounds were only about 15% of the over 48.5 million pound peak observed in 1960. For several years Rhode Island and New Jersey have harvested the largest share of the total commercial landings of scup. Landings were stable from 2003-2007 between 9.8 -9.0 million pounds, and declined to 5 year low of 5.2 million pounds in 2008. Since then landings have increased to 14 million pounds in 2011 and 10.9 million pounds in 2012.

The recreational fishery for scup is significant. Recreational fishermen accounted for 17 to 67% of total annual catches from 1985–2001. Recreational landings declined steadily from a 1986 value of 11.6 million pounds to 0.9 million pounds in 1998, the lowest value in the time series. Recreational landings then increased to 8.5 million pounds in 2003 and decreased in 2004 and 2005, 4.4 million pounds and 2.4 million pounds respectively. Since then landings have increased to 5.1 million pounds in 2010 with declining landings in 2011 and 2012 (3.1 and 3.6 million pounds).

### **IV. Status of Assessment Advice**

Technical advice to managers has cautioned rapid increases in quota to meet the revised maximum sustainable yield given uncertainties in recruitments. They advised a more gradual increase in quotas is a preferred approach reflective of the uncertainty in the model estimates and stock status.

A between assessment comparison provided another measure of assessment uncertainty due to historical changes in model estimates. The 2010 assessment estimates of  $SSB$  and  $F$  are intermediate with respect to the 2008 assessment and the 2009 update for the same years, while the size of the 2007 year class was overestimated in the 2008 assessment compared to the 2010 update.

The next assessment update will be in the 2014, with a full benchmark assessment tentatively for 2015 .

## **V. Status of Research and Monitoring**

Commercial landings data are collected by the NMFS Vessel Trip Report system and by state reporting systems. The NEFSC sea sampling program collects commercial discard information. Biological samples (age, length) of the commercial fishery are collected through NEFSC weighout system and by the state of North Carolina. Recreational landings and discard information is obtained through the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts collected length frequency information for the recreational fishery in 2001 as part of a federally funded effort to monitor the recreational and commercial directed fisheries. One non-directed fishery assumed to have substantial scup bycatch was also monitored. This monitoring effort decreased substantially in 2002 as the study received funding for one year. Fishery independent abundance indices are available from surveys conducted by the NEFSC, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

## **VI. Management Measures and Developing Issues**

Addendum 1 to the Scup FMP specifies the commercial quota management scheme. The annual coastwide quota is divided among three periods. The Winter I period is January through April, the summer period is May through October, and November and December make up Winter II. During the winter periods, the quota is coastwide and is limited by trip limits. The summer allocation is divided into state shares. When a winter period allocation is landed, the states and the NMFS must prohibit landings. When a state lands its summer allocation it is expected to close its fishery and the NMFS will close that state for landings by federally permitted vessels. The quota, as well as accompanying trip limits, will be set annually. [Note: The Federal FMP currently contains a coastwide commercial quota during the summer period due to the court decision described in Section I]. The Board has expressed interest in exploring alternative quota programs for scup.

### **Scup FMP Compliance Criteria:**

#### **COMMERCIAL FISHERY for 2012**

*The following management measures may change annually.*

Minimum size of possession: 9" Total Length

Minimum mesh and threshold: for large nets, no more than 25 meshes of 5 inch mesh in the codend, with at least 100 meshes of 5.0 inch mesh forward of the 5 inch mesh; and for small nets with codends (including an extension) less than 125 meshes, the entire net must have 4.5 inch mesh or larger throughout after 500 pounds in the winter period and 100 pounds in the summer. Otter trawls must have a minimum mesh size of 5" for the first 75 meshes from the terminus of the net and a minimum mesh size of 5" throughout the net for codends constructed with fewer than 75 meshes.

Threshold to Trigger Minimum Mesh Requirements: 500 pounds of scup from November 1 through April 30 and 200 pounds or more of scup from May 1 through October 31.

Maximum roller rig trawl roller diameter: 18”

Pot and trap escape vents: 3.1” round, 2.25” square

Pot and trap degradable fastener provisions: a) untreated hemp, jute, or cotton string 3/16” (4.8 mm) or smaller; b) magnesium alloy timed float releases or fasteners; c) ungalvanized, uncoated iron wire of 0.094” (2.4mm) or smaller

Commercial quota: 27.91 million pounds (adjusted for overages and research set-asides)

Winter I and II landing limits: Winter I = 12,589,558 lbs, 1,000 @ 80%; Winter II = 2,484,470 lbs

*The following required measures are not subject to annual adjustment:*

Vessel and dealer permitting requirements: States are required to implement a permit for fishermen fishing exclusively in state waters, and for dealers purchasing exclusively from such fishermen. In addition, states are expected to recognize federal permits in state waters, and are encouraged to establish a moratorium on entry into the fishery.

Vessel and dealer reporting requirements: States are required to implement reporting requirements for state permitted vessels and dealers and to report landings from state waters to the NMFS.

Scup pot or trap definition: A scup pot or trap will be defined by the state regulations that apply to the vessels principal port of landing.

Quota management requirements:

**Winter I and II:** States are required to implement landing limits as specified annually, States are required to notify state and federal permit holders of initial period landing limits, in-period adjustments, and closures. States are required to prohibit fishing for, and landing of, scup when a period quota has been landed, based on projections by NMFS. States must report landings from state waters to the NMFS for counting toward the quota

**Summer:** States are required to implement a plan of trip limits or other measures to manage their summer share of the scup quota. States are required to prohibit fishing for, and landing of, scup when their quota share is landed. States may transfer or combine quota shares. States must report all landings from state waters to the NMFS for counting toward the state shares.

## **RECREATIONAL FISHERY for 2012**

Addendum IX established a state-specific management program for Massachusetts through New York (inclusive), and specific management measures for the states of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina.

*The following measures may change annually:*

### **2012 Recreational Measures**

2012 Minimum size, possession limits and seasonal closure: Table 4

2012 Recreational Harvest Limit: 7.55 million pounds.

### **2013 Recreational Measures**

2013 Minimum size, possession limits and seasonal closure: Table 5

2013 Recreational Harvest Limit: 8.52 million pounds

## **OTHER MEASURES**

**Reporting:** States are required to submit an annual compliance report to the Chairman of the ASMFC Scup Plan Review Team by June 1 of each year. This report should detail the state's management program for the current year and establish proof of compliance with all mandatory management measures. It should include landings information from the previous year, and the results of any monitoring or research programs.

*De minimis:* States having commercial landings during the summer period that are less than 0.1% of the summer period quota are eligible for *de minimis* consideration. States desiring *de minimis* classification must make a formal request in writing through the Plan Review Team for review and consideration by the Scup Management Board.

*This summary of compliance criteria is intended to serve as a quick reference guide. It in no way alters or supersedes compliance criteria as contained in the Scup FMP and any Amendments thereto.*

### **Compliance Issues**

The PRT found no compliance issues.

### **De Minimis**

The state of Delaware request *de minimis* status. The PRT notes Delaware meets the *de minimis* requirements.



## **VII. State Compliance with Required Measures**

Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina are required to comply with the provisions of the Scup FMP. All states implemented regulations in compliance with the requirements approved by the Board.

### **Scup FMP Compliance Schedule**

1996 and 1997 initial FMP compliance dates:

#### **Commercial Fishery**

##### **Quota Management Measures**

ability to implement and enforce period landing limits	1/1/97
ability to notify permit holders of landing limits and closures	5/1/97
ability to close the summer fishery once the state share is harvested	5/1/97
ability to close the winter fisheries once the period quota is harvested	5/1/97
Size limit	6/30/96
Minimum mesh	1/1/97
Pot and trap escape vents, degradable fasteners	6/30/96
Roller diameter restriction	6/30/96
Vessel permit and reporting requirements, state	1/1/97
Dealer permit and reporting requirements, state	1/1/97

#### **Recreational Fishery**

##### **Quota Management Measures**

Size limit	6/30/96
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##### **General**

States submit annual monitoring and compliance report	6/1 annually
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## **2005 Annual Specifications**

### **Commercial**

Winter I Landing Limits	1/1/05
Winter II Landing Limits	11/1/05

### **Recreational**

#### Massachusetts– New York (inclusive)

State specific minimum size, possession limit and season	11/1/05
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#### New Jersey – North Carolina (inclusive)

Board-established regulations	3/1/05
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Table 1. Summary of Scup management measures, 1998-2012.

Management measures		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
TAC (m lbs)	-	7.28	5.92	5.92	8.37	12.92	18.65	18.65	18.65	19.79	13.97	9.9	15.54	17.09	31.92	40.88
Commercial TAC (m lbs)	-	5.68	4.62	4.62	6.53	10.08	14.55	14.55	14.55	15.44	10.9	7.72	12.12	13.33	24.92	31.89
Commercial quota-initial (m lbs)	-	4.57	2.53	2.53	4.44	8	12.47	12.47	12.47	12.08	9.18	5.46	8.54	11.01	20.67	28.35
Commercial quota-adjusted (m lbs)	-	-	-	1.75	3.53	7.25 <sup>a</sup>	12.10 <sup>d</sup>	12.34 <sup>e</sup>	12.23 <sup>f</sup>	11.93	8.9	5.24	8.37	10.68	20.36	27.91
Commercial Landings (m lbs)		4.17	3.32	2.66	4.07	7.28	9.75	9.05	9.56	8.96	9.25	5.18	8.2	10.3	14.8	14.8
Recreational TAC (m lbs)	-	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.84	2.84	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.35	3.07	2.18	3.42	3.76	7.02	8.99
Recreational harvest limit-initial (m lbs)	-	1.55	1.24	1.24	1.77	2.77	4.03	4.03	4.02	4.19	2.82	1.88	2.64	3.1	5.83	10.85
Recreational harvest limit-adjusted (m lbs)	-	-	-	-	-	2.71 <sup>b</sup>	4.01 <sup>d</sup>	4.01 <sup>e</sup>	3.96 <sup>f</sup>	4.15	2.74	1.83	2.59	3.01	5.74	7.55
Recreational landings (m lbs)		0.88	1.89	5.44	4.26	3.62	9.33	4.38	2.38	2.95	3.65	4.04	2.94	5.9	3.6	4.1
Commercial fish size (in)		9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Min. mesh size (in, diamond)		4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5/5.0	4.5/5.0	4.5/5.0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Mesh threshold	4000/1000	4000/1000	200/100	200/100	500/100	500/100	500/100	500/100	500/200	500/200	500/200	500/200	500/200	500/200	500/200	500/200

Table 2. Scup commercial landings by state 1998-2012 in thousands of pounds.

State	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Maine	20				469		2								
Massachusetts	958,808	661,581	355,403	462,124	727,183	897,168	775,940	1,134,759	1,088,148	1,104,316	527,725	718,751	1,030,688	1,044,854	2,346,406
Rhode Island	794,585	1,280,491	1,016,959	1,617,373	3,674,789	3,813,811	3,425,242	3,423,611	3,642,943	3,932,503	2,151,504	3,618,677	4,298,595	4,322,108	2,015,703
Connecticut	97,652	96,347	142,415	220,319	313,827	292,346	255,569	327,861	297,912	255,884	283,101	147,146	323,757	644,030	905,060
New York	621,428	454,663	633,712	655,203	1,557,601	1,849,957	1,906,889	2,185,836	2,423,179	2,324,887	1,213,776	1,848,002	2,689,703	3,729,032	4,306,616
New Jersey	1,670,866	796,423	510,769	1,055,954	923,084	2,306,257	1,891,086	1,914,358	1,392,868	1,575,144	773,829	1,528,545	1,550,249	1,966,479	978,531
Delaware	2						2							9	1
Maryland	11,753	568	109				47,200	927				9,000	27,183	54,229	8,263
Virginia	9,185	28,137	1,091	53,503	54,298	557,694	448,574	287,891	80,292		96,194	211,576	371,376	620,480	339,868
North Carolina	14,937	564	615	665	7,657	143,004	523,554	352,422	140,062	66,979	205,868	244,337	102,853	308,907	3,903
Coastwide	4,179,236	3,318,774	2,661,073	4,065,141	7,258,908	9,860,237	9,274,058	9,627,665	9,065,404	9,259,713	5,251,997	6,587,817	10,394,404	14,902,366	10,904,351

Source: Fisheries Statistics Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) web query July 2013

Table 3. Scup recreational landings, 1998-2012, by state in numbers of fish.

Source: "Personal communication from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries Statistics Division. [July 2013]"

State	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>MA</b>	383,447	174,720	378,720	152,132	155,377	177,449	280,938	203,201	218,996	75,860	150,031	48,311	925,222	785,205	1,587,006
<b>RI</b>	394,907	432,087	807,170	268,244	190,741	205,435	288,428	187,983	263,716	232,495	206,501	51,293	398,178	567,697	497,505
<b>CT</b>	261,401	215,311	371,611	152,813	93,366	165,808	217,031	213,131	107,479	108,528	115,821	61,625	1,087,681	932,637	868,475
<b>NY</b>	1,230,402	759,640	1,671,470	699,625	696,343	1,539,115	937,016	1,147,019	801,938	710,514	565,456	264,508	1,990,340	714,789	592,238
<b>NJ</b>	2,728,286	1,502,689	3,022,809	2,070,234	988,878	1,784,356	1,887,193	1,395,626	1,560,505	1,327,567	851,447	1,012,806	739,901	44,813	119,961
<b>DE</b>	218,933	180,562	335,664	145,786	106,837	105,743	123,714	90,659	110,222	117,734	32,953	92,039	0	40	86
<b>MD</b>	206,057	226,912	258,211	139,392	68,891	41,201	65,949	85,192	58,386	157,360	89,729	89,660	18	11	0
<b>VA</b>	1,164,527	378,283	580,517	1,338,134	772,265	451,348	583,664	584,478	862,309	479,211	228,898	231,991	5,284	10,413	1,800
<b>NC</b>	391,136	236,791	374,756	327,249	189,458	87,851	172,736	128,926	152,683	184,476	53,090	58,093	1,653	607	1,425
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,979,096</b>	<b>4,106,995</b>	<b>7,800,928</b>	<b>5,293,609</b>	<b>3,262,156</b>	<b>4,558,306</b>	<b>4,556,669</b>	<b>4,036,215</b>	<b>4,136,234</b>	<b>3,393,745</b>	<b>2,293,926</b>	<b>1,910,326</b>	<b>5,148,276</b>	<b>3,056,211</b>	<b>3,668,513</b>

**Table 4. 2012 Scup recreational management measures by state.**

State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
Massachusetts For Hire	11	20 fish from May 1-10 and June 25-Dec 31; 45 fish from May 11-June 24	May 1- December 31
Private Angler	10.5	20 fish; private vessels with 6 or more persons aboard are prohibited from possessing more than 100 scup per day	May 1- December 31
Rhode Island For Hire	11	20 fish from May 1- Aug 31 and Nov 1-Dec 31; 40 fish from Sept 1-Oct 31	May 1- December 31
Private Angler	10.5 and 9" for shore mode at 44 designated sites	20 fish	May 1- December 31
Connecticut For Hire	11	20 fish from May 1- Aug 31 and Nov 1-Dec 31; 40 fish from Sept 1-Oct 31	May 1- December 31
Private Angler	10.5	20 fish	May 1- December 31
New York For Hire	11	20 fish from May 1- Aug 31 and Nov 1-Dec 31; 40 fish from Sept 1-Oct 31	May 1- December 31
Private Angler	10.5	20 fish	May 1- December 31
New Jersey	9	50 fish	Jan 1-Feb 28 and July 1 – December 31
Delaware	8	50 fish	All Year
Maryland	8	50 fish	All Year
Virginia	8	50 fish	All Year
North Carolina	8	50 fish	All Year

**Table 5. 2013 State Scup Recreational Measures**

State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
Massachusetts For Hire	10	45 fish from May 1- June 30; 30 fish from July 1- Dec 31	July 1- December 31
Private Angler	10	30 fish; private vessels with 6 or more persons aboard are prohibited from possessing more than 150 scup per day	May 1- December 31
Rhode Island For Hire	10	30 fish from May 1-Aug 31 and Nov 1-Dec 31; 45 fish from Sept 1-Oct 31	May 1- December 31
Private Angler	10"; and 9" or greater for shore mode at 3 designated sites	30 fish	May 1- December 31
Connecticut For Hire	11	20 fish from May 1-Aug 31 and Nov 1-Dec 31; 45 fish from Sept 1-Oct 31	May 1- December 31
Private Angler	10.5; and 9" for shore mode at 46 designated sites	20 fish	May 1- December 31
New York For Hire	10	30 fish from May 1-Aug 31 and Nov 1-Dec 31; 45 fish from Sept 1-Oct 31	May 1- December 31
Private Angler	10	30 fish	May 1- December 31
New Jersey	9	50 fish	Jan 1-Feb 28 and July 1 – December 31
Delaware	8	50 fish	All Year
Maryland	8	50 fish	All Year
Virginia	8	50 fish	All Year
North Carolina	8	50 fish	All Year

**Table 6. Scup Landings by period.**

Year	Period	Commercial Quota	Trip Limits	Landings (lbs)	Date Closed	% of Quota Landed
2002	Winter I	3,517,300	10,000/ 1,000	3,063,836	--	87.1
	Summer	2,556,595	--	1,223,202	--	47.8
	Winter II	1,179,502	2,000	1,135,769	2-Dec	96.3
2003	Winter I	5,602,495	15,000/ 1,000	3,752,176	--	66.9
	Summer	4,521,879	--	4,407,785	--	97.5
	Winter II	1,979,689	1,500	1,592,624	--	80.4
2004	Winter I	5,568,920	15,000/ 1,000	3,587,841	--	65.5
	Summer	4,808,455	--	4,055,207	--	84.5
	Winter II	1,967,825	1,500	1,407,733 <sup>f</sup>	--	82.2
2005	Winter I	5,518,367	15,000/ 1,000	3,684,768	--	66.8
	Summer	4,764,806	--	4,001,662	--	89.5
	Winter II	1,987,718	1,500	1,380,444	--	74.6
2006	Winter I	3,554,991	30,000/ 1,000	3,626,237	--	102
	Summer	4,647,569	--	3,219,929	--	69.3
	Winter II	3,729,581	2,000/ 1,000	2,115,323	--	56.7
2007	Winter I	4,012,895	30,000/ 1,000	3,400,934	--	84.8
	Summer	3,464,914	--	4,254,987	21-Sep	122.8
	Winter II	1,417,991	2,000/ 1,000	1,590,747	--	112.2
2008	Winter I	2,291,699	30,000/ 1,000	2,356,716	--	102.8
	Summer	1,437,558	--	1,935,074	16-Jul	134.6
	Winter II	940,948	2,000/ 1,000	892,318	--	94.8
2009	Winter I	3,777,443	30,000/ 1,000	3,774,583	--	99.9
	Summer	2,930,733	--	3,072,340	--	104.8
	Winter II	1,334,791	2,000/ 1,000	1,356,961	--	101.7
2010	Winter I	4,964,716	30,000/ 1,000	4,740,681	--	95.4
	Summer	4,286,759	--	4,175,206	--	97.4
	Winter II	1,754,325	2,000/ 1,000	1,482,669	--	84.5
2011	Winter I	6,897,648	30,000/ 1,000	5,648,867	--	81.9
	Summer	7,930,504	--	6,349,749	--	80.1
	Winter II	3,245,500	2,000/ 1,000	2,556,214	--	78.8
2012	Winter I	12,589,558	50,000/ 1,000	5,190,370	--	41.2
	Summer	10,870,390	--	6,326,576	--	58.2
	Winter II	11,635,321	8,000	2,484,470	--	21.4