



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

ASMFC Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 5, 2014

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger
703.842.0740

ASMFC Winter Flounder Board Sets 2014 Recreational Measures for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Stock

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Winter Flounder Management Board set specifications for the 2014 recreational fishing season for the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) stock. The season will extend from March 1 to December 31 with a two fish creel limit. This change is an expansion of the 60-day recreational open season. The action is intended to increase fishing opportunities in the southern range where other species’ availability may be limited later in the year. All other commercial and recreational management measures for the Gulf of Maine (GOM) and SNE/MA stocks will be maintained (see Table 1).

Table 1. Minimum commercial and recreational management measures for the Inshore Winter Flounder FMP. No changes were specified for FY2013.

Stock	Sector	Trip Limit/ Possession Limit	Size Limit	Season	Gear
GOM	Commercial	500 lbs/trip/ day	12”	Maintain Closures	Minimum 6.5” square or diamond mesh in cod-end
	Recreational	8 fish	12”	NA	
SNE/MA	Commercial	50 lbs 38 fish/trip/day	12”	Maintain Closures	Minimum 6.5” square or diamond mesh in cod-end 100-lb mesh trigger
	Recreational	2 fish	12”	March 1 – December 31	

The Board reaffirmed its commitment to work cooperatively with the New England Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Office to effectively rebuild winter flounder stocks throughout their range. For more information, please contact, Melissa Yuen, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at myuen@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

PR14-02

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.