



# **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board Revises Northern Region Recreational Management Measures**

Arlington, VA – Upon the direction of the Commission’s Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board, the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved revised 2018 recreational measures for the Northern Region states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York (see Table 1). Further, the Board initiated new management action for the 2019 black sea bass recreational fishery and tasked the Plan Development Team to develop a white paper to consider the impacts of changes in black sea bass abundance and distribution to the management of commercial and recreational fisheries.

This action is taken in response to a Northern Region state appeal of the approved 2018 recreational measures under Addendum XXX. The appeal argued the Board’s action under Addendum XXX incorrectly applied technical data and was inconsistent with the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. After reviewing the appeal, Commission Leadership agreed there was adequate justification to bring portions of the appeal forward to the ISFMP Policy Board.

During the ISFMP Policy Board’s deliberations regarding consideration of the appeal, a potential management program for the 2018 black sea bass recreational fishery was presented to replace the allocations specified in Addendum XXX. The revised management program was developed to meet the needs of the Northern Region without impacting the remaining states, while still constraining harvest to the 2018 recreational harvest limit of 3.66 million pounds.

For more information, please contact Caitlin Starks, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [cstarks@asmfc.org](mailto:cstarks@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

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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.

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**Table 1. Approved 2018 black sea bass recreational measures.**

State	Minimum Size	Possession Limit	Open Season
ME	13"	10 fish	May 19–Sep 21; Oct 18–Dec 31
NH	13"	10 fish	Jan 1–Dec 31
MA	15"	5 fish	May 19–Sep 12
RI	15"	3 fish	Jun 24–Aug 31
		7 fish	Sep 1–Dec 31
CT, Private/Shore	15"	5 fish	May 19–Dec 31
CT, Authorized Party/Charter	15"	5 fish	May 19–Aug 31
		7 fish	Sep 1–Dec 31
NY	15"	3 fish	Jun 23–Aug 31
		7 fish	Sep 1–Dec 31
NJ	12.5"	10 fish	May 15–Jun 22
	12.5"	2 fish	Jul 1–Aug 31
	12.5"	10 fish	Oct 8–Oct 31
	13"	15 fish	Nov 1–Dec 31
DE, MD, VA, & NC (North of Cape Hatteras)	12.5"	15 fish	May 15–Dec 31

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