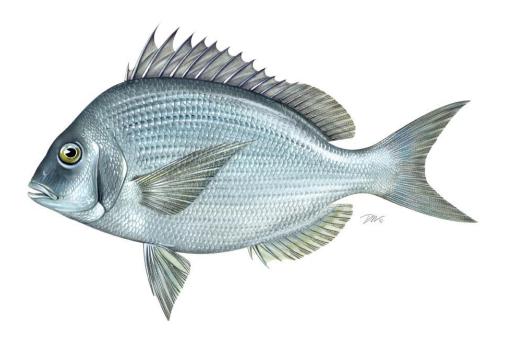
# ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

## **REVIEW OF THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## FOR SCUP (Stenotomus chrysops)

## **2019 FISHING YEAR**



Prepared by the Plan Review Team

**Approved October 2020** 



Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

#### 2020 Review of the ASMFC Fishery Management Plan for Scup

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

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 and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) guide plan development. The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Technical Committee addresses technical issues. Industry advice is solicited through the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel, and annual review and monitoring is the responsibility of the Scup Plan Review Team.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC or Commission) management of scup was initiated as one component of a multi-species Fishery Management Plan (FMP) addressing summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. The Commission approved the FMP for scup in March 1996. Amendment 12 to the 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 management unit for scup in US waters is the western Atlantic Ocean from Cape Hatteras North Carolina northward to the US-Canadian border.

The FMP included a seven-year plan for reducing fishing effort and restoring the stock. The primary concerns were 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 when the plan was initially developed was  $F_{MAX}$ , or F=0.25. To allow flexibility in addressing unforeseen conditions in the fishery, the plan contained provisions that allow implementation of time and area closures. The plan also specified the option for changes in the recreational minimum size and bag limit, or implementation of a seasonal closure on an annual basis. The original FMP also implemented an annual coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limit, effective in 1997, from which an annual commercial quota and recreational harvest limit would be derived.

Addendum 1 to the FMP established the quota management procedure for management and distribution of the annual coastwide commercial quota. Addendum 1 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 FMP, and ordered the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate a regulation that sets forth state-by-state quotas in compliance with the National Standards. The Management Board

developed three Emergency Rules to address the quota management during the summer quota period during 1999, 2000 and 2001.

Amendment 12 established a biomass threshold for scup based on the maximum value of the 3year moving average of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center spring bottom trawl survey index of spawning stock biomass. The Amendment stipulated that the scup stock was considered overfished when the spawning stock biomass index fell below this value. Amendment 12 also defined overfishing for scup to occur when the fishing mortality rate exceeded the threshold fishing mortality. Subsequent addenda modified the reference points.

In 2002, the Board developed Addendum V 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 National Marine Fisheries Service (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 Massachusetts through New York for the 2002 recreational scup fishery based on the average landings (in number of fish) for 1998-2001. 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. The same addendum language was used verbatim to set management measures for the states of Massachusetts through New York for 2003 through Addendum IX.

Addendum XIX, approved in August 2007, broadened 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 criteria for identifying when stocks are overfished. It established 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 quota 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 XXIX was approved by the Board in May 2017. The Addendum shortens the length of the commercial scup summer period and extends the length of the winter II period. The addendum was developed to allow for the better utilization of the commercial quota, which was under-harvested from 2011-2016. Specifically, the change in quota period length allows for higher possession limits for a longer period of time each year, thus increasing the likelihood the commercial fishery will fully harvest the quota. The quota allocation for each period remains

unchanged. While Addendum XXIX is a Commission specific document, the Council also took the same action through Framework 10. The new quota periods are the following and were implemented for the 2018 fishing season: Winter 1, January 1-April 30 (120 days); Summer, May 1-September 30 (153 days); Winter II, October 1-December 31 (92 days).

In December 2018, the Commission approved Addendum XXXI through a joint action with the Council. The Board recommended NOAA Fisheries implement regulations to allow transit through federal waters in Block Island Sound for non-federally permitted vessels in possession of summer flounder, scup and black sea bass.

## II. Status of the Stock

The 2019 operational stock assessment indicated the stock is not overfished nor experiencing overfishing relative to the updated biological reference points. Spawning stock biomass (SSB), estimated at 411 million pounds in 2018, is about two times the SSB target of 207 million pounds. The assessment indicates that F on the fully selected age 3 fish was 0.158 in 2018, which equals 73% of the updated fishing mortality threshold reference FMSY proxy = F40% =0.215. F<sub>40%</sub> is the rate of fishing that will result in 40% of the spawning potential of an unfished stock.

Since 1984, recruitment estimates are influenced mainly by the fishery and survey catches-atage, and averaged 134 million fish during 1984-2018. The 2006, 2007 and 2015 year classes are estimated to be the largest of the time series, at 264, 262, and 326 million age 0 fish. Below average recruitment occurred in 2016-2018.

## III. Status of the Fishery

Commercial scup landings, which had declined by over 33% to 13.10 million pounds in 1988 from peak landings (approximately 49 million lbs) in 1960, increased to 15.61 million pounds in 1991, then steadily dropped to the lowest value in the time series, 2.66 million pounds in 2000. Since 2001, commercial landings have continued to increase nearly every year to about 17.87 million pounds in 2013. Commercial landings have declined slightly since, subsiding slightly to 14.00 million lbs in 2019, about 58% of the commercial quota (Table 1). Since 1979 approximately 80% of the commercial landings have been landed in Rhode Island (38%), New Jersey (25%), and New York (17%). Otter trawl is the principal gear, accounting for 40%-90% of commercial landings since 1979.

The recreational fishery for scup is significant, with the greatest proportion of the catches taken in states of Massachusetts through New York. Since 2010, recreational harvest has averaged 44% of total landings (commercial and recreational). From 2010 to 2019, recreational harvest has ranged from 8.27 million lbs in 2012 to 14.53 million lbs in 2017. In 2019, recreational harvest was 14.12 million lbs, approximately 50% of total landings (Table 2).

### IV. Status of Assessment Advice

The Northeast Fishery Science Center (NEFSC) fall 2015 and spring 2016 survey biomass indices were record highs for the time series. However, the 2019 data update indicates that both seasonal indices have since decreased. The NEFSC fall survey length frequency distributions suggest that a very large year class recruited to the stock in 2015. Stock biomass is projected to further decrease toward the target unless more above average year classes recruit to the stock in the short term.

## 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) from the commercial fishery are collected through the NEFSC weighout system, the observer program, and by the state of North Carolina. Recreational landings and discard information is obtained through the Marine Recreational Information Program. Fishery-independent abundance indices are available from surveys conducted by the NEFSC, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. All surveys, with the exception of Delaware's, are included in the species stock assessment.

### VI. Management Measures and Developing Issues

In 2019, per the Board and Council approved commercial fishery specifications, the threshold to trigger the trawl minimum mesh requirement was increased to 2,000 pounds during April 15-¬June 15. This change was made in response to a MA and RI proposal to reduce discarding in their small-mesh squid fisheries.

In January 2020, the Commission and Council released the scoping document of the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment to consider potential modifications to the allocations of catch or landings between the commercial and recreational sectors for the three species. The current commercial and recreational allocation percentages for all three species do not reflect the current understanding of the recent and historic proportions of catch and landings from the two sectors. This amendment will consider whether changes to these allocations are warranted.

#### VII. Scup FMP Compliance Criteria

#### **COMMERCIAL FISHERY for 2019**

#### The following management measures may change annually.

#### Minimum size of possession: 9" Total Length

<u>Minimum mesh</u>: 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.

<u>Threshold to trigger minimum mesh requirements:</u> Trawl vessels are subject to the minimum mesh requirements if possessing 1,000 pounds or more of scup from October 1 through April

14, 2,000 pounds or more of scup from April 15 through June 15, and 200 pounds or more of scup from June 16 through September 30.

Maximum roller rig trawl roller diameter: 18"

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

<u>Pot and trap degradable fastener provisions</u>: 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: 23.98 million pounds (adjusted for overages)

ASMFC Summer Quota: 9,340,986 lbs (State by State Shares in Table 3)

<u>Winter I and II Quotas and landing limits</u>: Winter I = 10,820,000 lbs; 50,000 lb trip limit, 1,000 lbs trip limits when the quota reaches 80%; Winter II = 3,822,816 lbs, 27,000 pounds trip limit (both increased from initial amounts by rollover of unused quota from Winter I; Table 4)

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

<u>Vessel and dealer permitting requirements</u>: 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.

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

<u>Scup pot or trap definition</u>: 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 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 NMFS for counting toward the state shares.

## **RECREATIONAL FISHERY for 2019**

Addendum IX (2003) 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 states have continued this approach since 2004.

#### The following measures may change annually: Recreational Measures<sup>1</sup>

2019 Minimum size, possession limits and seasonal closure: Table 5

2019 Recreational Harvest Limit: 7.37 million pounds

2020 Minimum size, possession limits and seasonal closure: Table 6

#### OTHER MEASURES

<u>Reporting</u>: States are required to submit an annual compliance report to the Chair of the ASMFC Scup Plan Review Team (PRT) 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.

<u>De minimis</u>: 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.

#### Scup FMP Compliance Schedule

#### **Commercial Fishery**

| 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  |
| 9" total length minimum size limit                                       | 6/30/96 |
| Minimum mesh size of 5" diamond mesh throughout codend                   | 1/1/05  |
| Pot and trap escape vents (min 3.1" square/rectangular; each side at     |         |
| least 2.25" in length), degradable fasteners                             | 6/30/96 |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Refer to FMP review of the 2018 fishing year for prior year's recreational measures: <u>http://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/5bc79b1dScupFMPReview\_2018.pdf</u>

| Roller diameter restriction (maximum of 18")    | 6/30/96 |
|---|---------|
| Vessel permit and reporting requirements, state | 1/1/97  |
| Dealer permit and reporting requirements, state | 1/1/97  |

#### **Recreational Fishery**

| Management Measures |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Size limit          | 6/30/96 |
| Possession limit    | 6/30/96 |

#### General

| States submit annual monitoring and compliance report 6/1 annually |  |
|--|--|
|--|--|

#### **Annual Specifications**

| Commercial        |         |         |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Winter I Landing  | / . /   | 1/1/16  |
| Limits            | 11/1/05 |         |
| Winter II Landing |         | 11/1/16 |
| Limits            | 11/1/05 | 11/1/10 |

#### Recreational

| Massachusetts– New York (inclusive)                         |       |
|---|-------|
| State specific minimum size, possession limit and season    | 3/16  |
| New Jersey – North Carolina (inclusive)                     |       |
| Federal coastwide minimum size, possession limit and season | 12/15 |

#### **VIII. Status of Implementation of FMP Requirements**

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 with only one issue identified: Delaware's regulations regarding pot and trap escape vents are consistent with the requirements in the black sea bass FMP, but not consistent with those required under the scup FMP. Delaware staff have indicated that the language will be amended to include the larger escape vent requirement for pots and trap when targeting scup. Therefore, the PRT determined that all states have made a good faith effort to implement regulations in compliance with the requirements approved by the Board.

## De Minimis

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

#### Table 1. Scup commercial landings by state 2010-2019 in pounds.

Source: ACCSP. 2010-2019. Commercial Landings Summaries; generated by Dustin Colson Leaning; using ACCSP Data Warehouse, Arlington, VA. State Compliance Reports for 2019 data (May 2020)

| State | 2010       | 2011       | 2012       | 2013       | 2014       | 2015       | 2016       | 2017       | 2018       | 2019**     |
|-------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| MA    | 1,030,714  | 1,243,809  | 2,005,267  | 1,402,830  | 1,187,762  | 1,380,263  | 1,535,947  | 2,560,122  | 1,486,678  | 1,248,764  |
| RI    | 4,298,488  | 6,335,921  | 6,310,688  | 7,345,773  | 6,948,870  | 6,793,854  | 6,808,918  | 5,973,306  | 4,713,742  | 4,583,781  |
| СТ    | 323,874    | 644,443    | 906,821    | 1,194,761  | 811,106    | 983,042    | 941,533    | 748,285    | 792,737    | 1,353,411  |
| NY    | 2,689,697  | 3,728,937  | 4,306,997  | 4,574,421  | 3,174,869  | 4,050,299  | 3,504,265  | 3,464,505  | 3,348,867  | 4,070,217  |
| NJ    | 1,550,249  | 1,966,479  | 978,531    | 2,035,138  | 2,351,643  | 2,981,573  | 2,336,172  | 1,841,315  | 2,475,986  | 1,837,202  |
| DE    | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          |
| MD    | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          |
| VA    | 371,376    | 620,480    | 339,863    | 902,067    | 694,281    | 509,471    | 447,257    | 559,192    | 441,162    | 460,371    |
| NC*   | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          | С          |
| Total | 10,394,434 | 14,903,214 | 14,860,387 | 17,810,196 | 15,859,805 | 16,954,098 | 15,739,587 | 15,433,713 | 13,380,930 | 14,003,849 |

C= Confidential

\*NC landings are not confidential; they were marked as such in order to comply with the rule of three for maintaining confidentiality for other state commercial landings totals

\*\*2019 Landings are still preliminary

| State | 2010       | 2011       | 2012      | 2013       | 2014       | 2015       | 2016      | 2017       | 2018       | 2019       |
|-------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| MA    | 2,831,160  | 3,670,012  | 2,752,114 | 3,949,812  | 3,238,337  | 1,955,270  | 2,156,731 | 2,384,079  | 3,021,959  | 1,924,202  |
| RI    | 771,713    | 1,269,888  | 1,119,378 | 2,622,654  | 2,650,482  | 1,370,141  | 1,552,395 | 1,114,181  | 2,030,258  | 2,856,459  |
| СТ    | 2,709,558  | 2,581,001  | 1,887,141 | 2,228,809  | 1,245,734  | 1,148,402  | 1,373,235 | 1,712,675  | 2,574,308  | 2,242,548  |
| NY    | 4,479,392  | 2,630,105  | 2,244,903 | 3,535,433  | 3,085,237  | 7,607,418  | 4,252,716 | 6,631,471  | 4,906,043  | 6,970,873  |
| NJ    | 1,667,228  | 154,089    | 259,235   | 292,315    | 49,283     | 87,658     | 480,660   | 1,691,507  | 443,700    | 118,832    |
| DE    | 0          | 32         | 393       | 0          | 30         | 674        | 1         | 133        | 362        | 0          |
| MD    | 12         | 7          | 0         | 0          | 0          | 207        | 147       | 4          | 370        | 444        |
| VA    | 14,014     | 16,817     | 3,851     | 6,344      | 0          | 4,081      | 183,405   | 0          | 0          | 229        |
| NC    | 4,089      | 690        | 2,280     | 515        | 1,340      | 405        | 0         | 508        | 420        | 2637       |
| Total | 12,477,166 | 10,322,641 | 8,269,295 | 12,635,882 | 10,270,443 | 12,174,256 | 9,999,290 | 13,534,558 | 12,977,420 | 14,116,224 |

 Table 2. Recreational Scup Harvest by State (2010-2019) in weight (pounds).

Source: "Personal Communication with National Marine Fisheries Service, Statistics Division August 2020"

| State | Share    | 2019 ASMFC Final Quota |
|-------|----------|------------------------|
| ME    | 0.12101  | 11,304                 |
| MA    | 21.58729 | 1,916,466              |
| RI    | 56.19456 | 5,249,126              |
| СТ    | 3.15399  | 394,614                |
| NY    | 15.82466 | 1,478,179              |
| NJ    | 2.91667  | 272,446                |
| MD    | 0.01190  | 1,112                  |
| VA    | 0.16502  | 15,414                 |
| NC    | 0.02490  | 2,326                  |
| Total | 100      | 9,340,986              |

## Table 3. 2019 State by State Quota (Summer Period)

\*State quotas summed together do not equal the summer period quota due to rounding.

| Year | Period    | Commercial<br>Quota | Trip Limits   | Landings<br>(Ibs) | Date<br>Closed | % of Quota<br>Landed |
|------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|
|      | Winter I  | 4,964,716           | 30,000/1,000* | 4,740,681         |                | 95.4                 |
| 2010 | Summer    | 4,286,759           |               | 4,175,206         |                | 97.4                 |
|      | Winter II | 1,754,325           | 2,000/1,000   | 1,482,669         |                | 84.5                 |
|      | Winter I  | 6,897,648           | 30,000/1,000* | 5,806,236         |                | 84.2                 |
| 2011 | Summer    | 7,930,504           |               | 6,642,296         |                | 83.7                 |
|      | Winter II | 3,245,500           | 2,000/1,000   | 2,583,514         |                | 79.6                 |
|      | Winter I  | 12,589,558          | 50,000/1,000* | 5,435,576         |                | 43.2                 |
| 2012 | Summer    | 10,870,390          |               | 6,762,839         |                | 62.2                 |
|      | Winter II | 11,635,321          | 8,000         | 2,685,725         |                | 23.0                 |
|      | Winter I  | 10,613,157          | 50,000/1,000* | 7,526,881         |                | 70.1                 |
| 2013 | Summer    | 9,163,877           |               | 8,215,177         |                | 89.6                 |
|      | Winter II | 6,932,998           | 8,000         | 2,131,981         |                | 30.7                 |
|      | Winter I  | 9,900,000           | 50,000/1,000* | 6,238,586         |                | 62.9                 |
| 2014 | Summer    | 8,548,364           |               | 7,543,741         |                | 88.2                 |
|      | Winter II | 7,232,471           | 12,000        | 2,181,849         |                | 30.1                 |
|      | Winter I  | 9,578,008           | 50,000/1,000* | 7,470,126         |                | 78.1                 |
| 2015 | Summer    | 8,269,322           |               | 7,414,606         |                | 89.7                 |
|      | Winter II | 5,468,726           | 12,000        | 2,145,234         |                | 39.2                 |
|      | Winter I  | 9,232,987           | 50,000/1,000* | 6,137,281         |                | 66.4                 |
| 2016 | Summer    | 7,972,176           |               | 7,240,922         |                | 90.8                 |
|      | Winter II | 3,262,554           | 18,000        | 2,377,558         |                | 72.6                 |
|      | Winter I  | 8,291,190           | 50,000/1,000* | 5,653,716         |                | 68                   |
| 2017 | Summer    | 7,458,013           |               | 7,158,986         |                | 104                  |
|      | Winter II | 5,160,914           | 18,000        | 2,106,598         |                | 41.0                 |
|      | Winter I  | 10,820,000          | 50,000/1,000* | 4,512,580         |                | 41.7                 |
| 2018 | Summer    | 9,340,986           |               | 5,790,492         |                | 62.0                 |
|      | Winter II | 3,822,816           | 28,500        | 2,478,486         |                | 64.8                 |
|      | Winter I  | 10,820,000          | 50,000/1,000* | 5,547,883**       |                | 41.7                 |
| 2019 | Summer    | 9,340,986           |               | 5,124,095**       |                | 62.0                 |
|      | Winter II | 3,822,816           | 27,000        | 3,111,846**       |                | 64.8                 |

## Table 4. Scup Landings by period.

\*The first number indicates the trip limit until 80% of the quota is caught; the second number is the trip limit after that threshold is exceeded.

\*\* Scup landings by period for 2019 were pulled from federal dealer data and the annual landings value differs from the ACCSP data warehouse landings amount listed in table 1. All 2019 data listed in this report are preliminary.

| State  | Minimum<br>Size (inches) | Possession Limit  | Open Season                                    |
|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| Massachusetts (Private<br>Vessel & Shore)                    | 9                        | 30 fish;<br>150 fish/vessel with<br>5+ anglers on board | January 1-December 31                          |
| Massachusetts (Anglers<br>aboard For-hire                    | 9                        | 30 fish   | January 1-April 30; July 1-<br>December 31     |
| Vessels)   |                          | 50 fish   | May 1-June 30                                  |
| Rhode Island<br>(Private Vessel &<br>Shore)                  | 9                        | 30 fish   | January 1-December 31                          |
| RI Shore Program ( 7 designated shore sites)                 | 8                        |   |  |
| RI (Anglers aboard For-                                      | 9                        | 30 fish   | January 1-August 31;<br>November 1-December 31 |
| hire Vessels)  |                          | 50 fish   | September 1-October 31                         |
| Connecticut (Private<br>Vessel & Shore)                      | 9                        |   |  |
| CT Shore Program<br>(45 designed shore<br>sites)             | 8                        | 30 fish   | January 1-December 31                          |
| CT (Anglers aboard For-                                      | 9                        | 30 fish   | January 1-August 31;<br>November 1-December 31 |
| hire Vessels)  |                          | 50 fish   | September 1-October 31                         |
| New York (Private<br>Vessel & Shore)*                        | 9                        | 30 fish   | January 1-December 31                          |
| NY* (Anglers aboard  | 9                        | 30 fish   | January 1-August 31;<br>November 1-December 31 |
| For-hire Vessels)  |                          | 50 fish   | September 1- October 31                        |
| New Jersey   | 9                        | 50 fish   | January 1- December 31                         |
| Delaware   | 8                        | 50 fish   | January 1-December 31                          |
| Maryland   | 8                        | 50 fish   | January 1-December 31                          |
| Virginia   | 8                        | 30 fish   | January 1-December 31                          |
| North Carolina, North<br>of Cape Hatteras (N of<br>35° 15'N) | 8                        | 50 fish   | January 1-December 31                          |

 Table 5. Scup State-by-State Recreational Management Measures for 2019.

\* 2019 Season liberalization implementation dates: MA 4/13/19, RI 8/8/19 CT 6/10/19, NY 6/20/19

| State  | Minimum<br>Size (inches) | Possession Limit  | Open Season                                    |
|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| Massachusetts (Private<br>Vessel & Shore)                    | 9                        | 30 fish;<br>150 fish/vessel with<br>5+ anglers on board | January 1-December 31                          |
| Massachusetts (Anglers<br>aboard For-hire                    | 9                        | 30 fish   | January 1-April 30; July 1-<br>December 31     |
| Vessels)   |                          | 50 fish   | May 1-June 30                                  |
| Rhode Island<br>(Private Vessel &<br>Shore)                  | 9                        | 30 fish   | January 1-December 31                          |
| RI Shore Program ( 7 designated shore sites)                 | 8                        |   |  |
| RI (Anglers aboard For-                                      | 9                        | 30 fish   | January 1-August 31;<br>November 1-December 31 |
| hire Vessels)  |                          | 50 fish   | September 1-October 31                         |
| Connecticut (Private<br>Vessel & Shore)                      | 9                        |   |  |
| CT Shore Program<br>(45 designed shore<br>sites)             | 8                        | 30 fish   | January 1-December 31                          |
| CT (Anglers aboard For-                                      | 9                        | 30 fish   | January 1-August 31;<br>November 1-December 31 |
| hire Vessels)  |                          | 50 fish   | September 1-October 31                         |
| New York (Private<br>Vessel & Shore)*                        | 9                        | 30 fish   | January 1-December 31                          |
| NY* (Anglers aboard  | 9                        | 30 fish   | January 1-August 31;<br>November 1-December 31 |
| For-hire Vessels)  |                          | 50 fish   | September 1- October 31                        |
| New Jersey   | 9                        | 50 fish   | January 1- December 31                         |
| Delaware   | 8                        | 50 fish   | January 1-December 31                          |
| Maryland   | 8                        | 50 fish   | January 1-December 31                          |
| Virginia   | 8                        | 30 fish   | January 1-December 31                          |
| North Carolina, North<br>of Cape Hatteras (N of<br>35° 15'N) | 8                        | 50 fish   | January 1-December 31                          |

 Table 6. Scup State-by-State Recreational Management Measures for 2020.

|   | -           |             |             |             |             |             |               |           |           |           |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Harvest Limits and Measures                       | 2010        | 2011        | 2012        | 2013        | 2014        | 2015        | 2016          | 2017      | 2018      | 2019      |
| ABC (m lbs)                                       | -           | -           | 40.88       | 38.71       | 35.99       | 33.77       | 31.11         | 28.40     | 39.14     | 36.43     |
| TAC (m lbs)                                       | 17.09       | 31.92       | -           | -           | -           | -           | -             | -         | -         | -         |
| Commercial ACL (m lbs)                            | -           | -           | 31.89       | 30.19       | 28.07       | 26.35       | 24.26         | 22.15     | 30.53     | 28.42     |
| Commercial quota-adjusted (m lbs)*                | 10.68       | 20.36       | 27.91       | 23.53       | 21.95       | 21.23       | 20.47         | 18.38     | 23.98     | 23.98     |
| Commercial landing (m lbs)                        | 10.40       | 15.03       | 14.88       | 17.87       | 15.96       | 17.03       | 15.76         | 15.44     | 13.35     | 14.00     |
| Recreational ACL (m lbs)                          | -           | -           | 8.99        | 8.52        | 7.92        | 7.43        | 6.84          | 6.25      | 8.61      | 8.01      |
| Recreational harvest limit-adjusted* (m<br>lbs)** | 3.01        | 5.74        | 7.55        | 7.55        | 7.03        | 6.8         | 6.09          | 5.50      | 7.37      | 7.37      |
| Recreational landings (m lbs)                     | 12.48       | 10.32       | 8.27        | 12.64       | 10.27       | 12.17       | 10.00         | 13.53     | 12.98     | 14.12     |
| Commercial fish size (in)                         | 9           | 9           | 9           | 9           | 9           | 9           | 9             | 9         | 9         | 9         |
| Min. mesh size (in, diamond)                      | 5           | 5           | 5           | 5           | 5           | 5           | 5             | 5         | 5         | 5         |
| Mesh threshold (lb)                               | 500/<br>200 | 500/<br>200 | 500/<br>200 | 500/<br>200 | 500/<br>200 | 500/<br>200 | 1,000<br>/200 | 1,000/200 | 1,000/200 | 1,000/200 |

#### Table 7. Summary of scup management measures, 2010-2019.

\*2006-2014 commercial quotas and recreational harvest limits were adjusted for the Research Set Aside (RSA) program. The RSA program was suspended for 2015 and beyond.

\*\* RHLs were set before recalibrated MRIP data were released