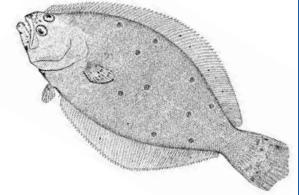




# Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Party/Charter and Recreational Information Sheet



Last Updated: July 28, 2011

## INTRODUCTION

This information sheet provides a brief summary of the Federal regulations for recreational summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries. This is not a substitute for the regulations, and we suggest that you read the regulations in addition to this sheet.

These regulations apply to the following areas:

- Summer flounder – the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) north of the border between North Carolina and South Carolina
- Scup and black sea bass – the EEZ north of 35° 15.3' N. lat. (Cape Hatteras Light, NC)

If there are differences between state and Federal recreational fishing regulations you must follow whichever one is more restrictive. For example, if a state has a possession limit of 30 fish for scup, a federally permitted charter/party vessel catching scup in that state is required to keep to the 10-fish per person possession limit.

## PERMITS

If you are fishing for summer flounder, scup, or black sea bass in Federal waters, you must have a valid permit for the fishery. There are two types of permits – one for vessels for hire (charter/party permit) and one for commercial fishing vessels (moratorium permit).

- **Charter/Party Permit.** You must have a summer flounder, scup, or black sea bass permit for the appropriate fishery, if you are carrying passengers for hire. Any fish you catch while fishing under a charter/party permit may not be sold. Charter/party

permits are “open access,” which means that anyone may apply for and get a permit.

- **Moratorium Permit.** You must have a summer flounder, scup, or black sea bass moratorium permit to sell any amount of the respective fish. No new moratorium permits are being issued.

If you have both types of permits you may not fish under the terms of both permits at the same time. A charter/party vessel with both types of permits may not possess more than the recreational possession limit for the respective fishery when carrying passengers for hire, or if the crew size is more than five for a party boat or three for a charter vessel.

## MINIMUM FISH SIZE

The minimum fish size is measured as the total length of the fish, which is a straight-line distance from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail while the fish is lying on its side (see Figure 1 on page 4). For black sea bass, the total length measurement does not include the filament/tail extension. You may not keep undersized fish to use as bait or for any other purpose. A charter/party vessel may possess summer flounder or black sea bass fillets smaller than the minimum fish size if it possesses a valid state permit and all state requirements are met.

## TRANSFERS AT SEA

Everyone aboard charter/party vessels is prohibited from transferring, or attempting to transfer, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass from one vessel to another vessel at sea.

**2011 FEDERAL SCUP AND BLACK SEA BASS RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

Species	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit (number of fish)	Open Season
Scup	10.5	10	June 6-September 26
Black Sea Bass	12.5	25	May 22-October 11 and November 1-December 31

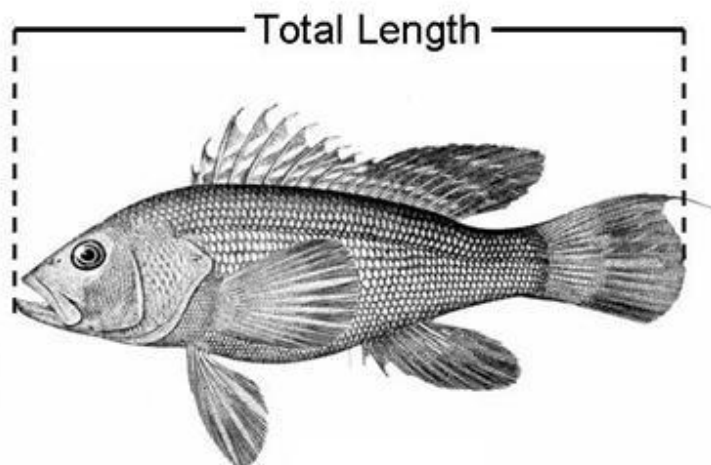
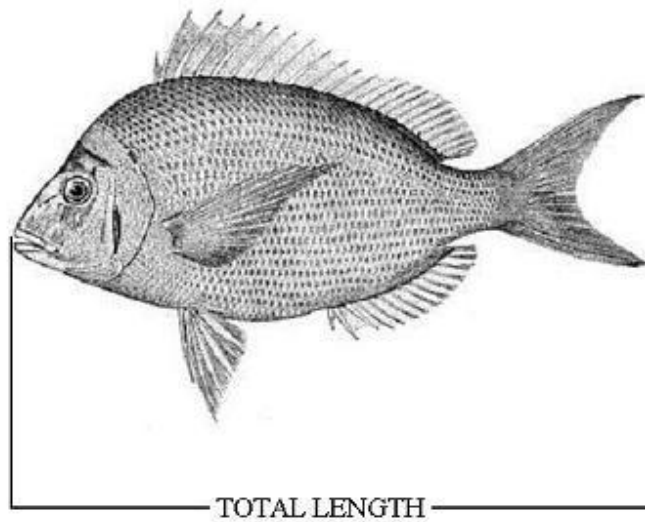
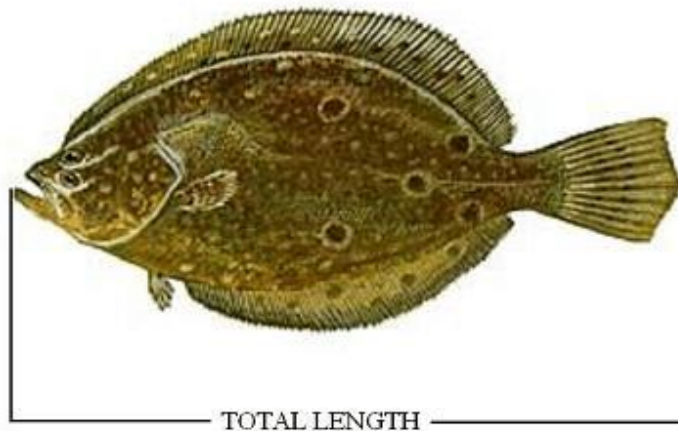
**2011 STATE AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR SUMMER FLOUNDER**

State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit (number of fish)	Open Season
Massachusetts	17.5	5	May 22-September 30
Rhode Island	18.5	7	May 1-December 31
Connecticut*	18.5	3	May 15-September 5
New York	20.5	3	May 1-September 30
New Jersey	18	8	May 7-September 25
Delaware	18	4	January 1-October 23
Maryland	18	3	April 16-November 30
Virginia	17.5	4	All year
North Carolina	15	6	All year

\*At 40 designated shore sites in CT, anglers may keep 1 fish at 17 inches, May 15-September 5.

**2011 STATE RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR BLACK SEA BASS**

State	Minimum Fish Size (inches)	Possession Limit (number of fish)	Open Season
Massachusetts	14	10	May 22-October 11
Rhode Island	13	12	July 11-December 31
Connecticut	13	25	July 1-October 11 and November 1-December 31
New York	13	10	June 13-October 1 and November 1-December 31
New Jersey	12.5	25	May 28-September 11 and November 1-December 31
Delaware	12.5	25	May 22-October 11 and November 1-December 31
Maryland	12.5	25	May 22-October 11 and November 1-December 31
Virginia	12.5	25	May 22-October 11 and November 1-December 31
North Carolina	12.5	25	July 1-September 25 and November 1-December 31



**Figure 1. Summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass total length measurement.**