

R.I. Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations
PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.4 Summer Flounder Recreational Regulations

7.7.4-1 Size and Possession – No person fishing recreationally shall possess a summer flounder less than eighteen and one half inches (18.5”) total length, and no person fishing recreationally shall possess, per calendar day, more than ~~seven (7)~~ **eight (8)** summer flounder whether caught within the jurisdiction of this state or otherwise. Compliance with the possession limit aboard vessels will be determined by dividing the number of fish on a vessel by the number of recreational fishermen onboard said vessel.

7.7.4-2 Season – The recreational season for summer flounder in Rhode Island waters is open from May 1 through December 31.

7.11.4 Scup - Recreational

7.11.4-1 - No person fishing recreationally shall possess scup less than ten and one half inches (10.5”) total length, and no person fishing recreationally shall possess, per calendar day, more than ~~ten (10)~~ **twenty (20)** scup, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise except as provided in section 7.11.4-3. Compliance with the possession limit aboard vessels will be determined by dividing the number of fish on board a vessel by the number of fishermen on board said vessel.

7.11.4-2 – The recreational season for scup in Rhode Island waters will be open from ~~May 24~~ **May 1** through ~~September 26~~ **December 31** annually.

7.11.4-3 – While fishing on a party or charter boat, no person shall possess scup less than eleven inches (11”) total length, and no person fishing while on a party or charter boat shall possess, per calendar day, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise, more than ~~ten (10)~~ **twenty (20)** scup from ~~June 8~~ **May 1** through ~~September 6~~ **August 31**, and more than forty (40) scup from ~~September 7~~ **September 1** through ~~October 11~~ **October 31 and no more than twenty (20) scup from November 1 through December 31**. Compliance with the possession limit aboard vessels will be determined by dividing the number of fish on board a vessel by the number of fishermen on board said vessel.

7.14.2 Black Sea Bass - Recreational Harvest

7.14.2-1 – Legal Minimum Size -- No person fishing recreationally shall possess a black sea bass less than thirteen inches (13”) total length, and no person fishing recreationally shall possess, per calendar day, more than ~~twelve (12)~~ **fifteen (15)** black sea bass whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise. Compliance with the possession limit aboard vessels will be determined by dividing the number of fish on a vessel by the number of recreational fishermen onboard said vessel.

7.14.2-2 – Recreational Season – The recreational season for black sea bass in Rhode Island waters will be open from ~~July 11~~ **June 15** at 12:01 a.m. through 11:59 p.m. on December 31, annually.

7.22.2 – Cod - Recreational Harvest

7.22.2-1 Minimum Size -- No person fishing recreationally shall land or possess any cod measuring less than twenty-two inches (22”) total length, or any cod fillet measuring less than fourteen inches (14”) in total length, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise.

(a) Filleting of Cod - The fillets or cleaned cod (head and tail removed) shall measure at least fourteen inches (14”) in length, and each fillet shall have at least two (2) square inches (5.1 square centimeters) of skin left intact to assist in species identification.

~~(b)~~ This section shall remain in effect through June 30, 2012.

7.22.2-2 Possession Limits – No person who is fishing recreationally in RI waters, may possess more than ten (10) cod per person per calendar day.

7.22.2-3 Vessels in possession of a federal permit allowing the recreational harvest of cod may transit state waters in possession of cod in the amount authorized to be possessed pursuant to applicable federal regulations and land the same if so permitted pursuant to Rhode Island State Law, so long as all of the fish harvesting gear on board the vessel is stowed while in state waters.

7.25 Skate

7.25.1 – Commercial

7.25.1-1 Commercial Fishing Year – The commercial skate fishery shall

operate on a May 1 through April 30 fishing year.

7.25.1-2 Prohibited Species – It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any barndoor (*Dipturus laevis*) or thorny (*Amblyraja radiata*) species of skate in Rhode Island.

7.25.1-3 Skate Wing Fishery – shall be defined as skate harvested, possessed, or landed for food for human consumption, i.e., product landed with a designated Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Disposition Code 001 = Food.

a. Current Commercial Possession Limit – There are no commercial trip limits or possession limits for commercial fishers engaged in the skate wing fishery, except as specified in 7.25.1-5, provided the vessel is fishing in state waters, not on a previously declared Day At Sea (DAS), and without an active federal open-access skate permit.

7.25.1-4 Skate Bait Fishery – shall be defined as skate harvested, possessed, or landed for use as bait i.e., product landed with a designated Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Disposition Code 008 = Bait.

a. Current Commercial Possession Limit – There are no commercial trip limits or possession limits for commercial fishers engaged in the skate bait fishery, except as specified in 7.25.1-5, provided the vessel is fishing in state waters, not on a previously declared DAS, without an active federal open-access skate permit, and without a federal skate bait Letter of Authorization (LOA).

7.25.1-5 Possession Limit Adjustments – When notified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that the federal Skate Wing or Skate Bait fishery possession limit is being reduced due to a federally-specified percentage of the Total Allowable Landings (TAL) being harvested, the RIDEM will promulgate a comparable reduced possession limit specific to the fishery being addressed by NMFS, until the end of the fishing year, or unless the federal restriction is relinquished. Any modifications made by the Division of Fish and Wildlife to the possession limit as set forth above will be promulgated in Part III, section 3.2.1-3.

7.25.2 Skate - Recreational Harvest

7.25.2-1 Prohibited Species – It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any barndoor (*Dipturus laevis*) or thorny (*Amblyraja radiata*) species of skate in Rhode Island.

7.25.2-2 Possession Limits – There are no recreational possession limits for skate provided the vessel is fishing in state waters, except as specified in 7.25.2-3.

7.25.2-3 Possession Limit Adjustments – The recreational possession limit for skate shall be adjusted to the most restrictive commercial possession limit if a possession limit is imposed on either of the two commercial skate fisheries as stated in sections 7.25.1-3, 7.25.1-4, and 7.25.1-5. Any modifications made to the recreational possession limit by the Division of Fish and Wildlife will be promulgated in Part VII, section 7.25.2.

RIMF REGULATIONS [Penalty – Part 3.3 (RIGL 20-1-16)]